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THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

NOTES ON THE RONALDS CATALOGUE AND LIBRARY OF WORKS ON ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM.

BY ALFRED J. FROST, LIBRARIAN OF THE SOCIETY OF TELEGRAPH ENGINEERS, LONDON.

AT the Conference of Librarians held in London last year, the writer briefly called attention to the fact that the Society of Telegraph Engineers was preparing for publication a complete catalogue of the literature relating to electricity and magnetism and the cognate sciences. The catalogue referred to (which has been edited by the writer), was compiled by the late Sir Francis Ronalds, F.R.S., who devoted the greater part of a long life to its completion, and to the formation of the valuable library bearing his name, now in the possession of the Society of Telegraph Engineers.

Sir Francis Ronalds, who became one of the earliest members of the Society, died in 1873, bequeathing the library to his brother-in-law, Samuel Carter, Esq.; and that gentleman, in accordance with the wishes of the testator that the library should be made available for students of electricity, handed the same over to the Society upon certain conditions, one being that the Society should bear the cost of printing the catalogue, which it had been the labor of its author's life to complete. The Society, although a very young one, not having been established more than seven years, willingly undertook the charge, and have spared no expense in making it worthy of its author, and of its importance in relation to science and bibliography.

The catalogue contains upwards of
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12,000 entries, and is believed to contain a record of nearly all the important books and papers bearing on the subject, published in any language up to within a short time of its author's death.

In the compilation of the catalogue Sir Francis Ronalds adopted what is now known as the card system, thus using a separate slip for each entry. I am not aware who introduced this system, or the date of its introduction; but, inasmuch as the catalogue referred to was commenced probably as early as 1820, I think Sir Francis Ronalds may be numbered amongst the earliest to see the advantages which that system bears over many others, especially in the compilation of a catalogue where many of the books are not seen, but have their titles, etc., copied from other sources. Every slip in the catalogue shows upon its face the whole history of the record. For example, in many instances it is found that the first notice of a work was obtained from some author's reference; later on—perhaps years—some further information is obtained of the work, in probably an old bookseller's catalogue, the slip is looked up and the further particulars are added, the source of the information being given in every case; later on again, perhaps, a further reference to the work is found in the catalogue of some public library, in which case any further information thus obtained is added to the slip;

and lastly, the book itself finds its way into the library, when all doubt as to accuracy of the entry is at an end, as the actual title is then examined with the slip, and any particulars which have been omitted are inserted. Another advantage of using a slip for each entry is the facility given for making notes.

Had the titles been entered into a book it would have been very difficult, and almost impossible to have added so much from time to time as it was found necessary to do in the work now referred to.

It has been considered desirable to preserve as many of the author's notes and references as possible, and these notes will form quite a special feature in the catalogue; besides which there will be found after most of the important names a reference to the date and place of birth, and when possible the date and place of death of the author.

Although this information is not usually given in printed catalogues, it was thought that it would not detract from its value if inserted, but would, on the contrary, enhance its importance and render the work more valuable as a book of reference.

The publishing committee of the Society gave considerable attention to the type most suitable, and it was decided to adopt large Clarendon type for the authors' names, all notes and references, etc., otherwise than the actual titles, being printed in italics: special prominence has also been given to dates. The books actually in the library are designated with a dagger.

Although the catalogue professes to relate simply to electricity and magnetism and their application, it will be found a most valuable record of scientific books generally, inasmuch as almost all books treating of natural philosophy and physical science contain something electrical, and it was of course necessary to include all such books in a work of this nature.

The catalogue will be published at a

price much less than its cost, and it is proposed to issue *to subscribers* a separate librarian's edition, printed on one side of the paper only, the price of which will be twenty shillings, the price of the catalogue in the ordinary form being fixed at sixteen shillings.

The library formed by Sir Francis Ronalds, above referred to, contains about 10,000 works, a large number of which consist of the electrical papers cut from the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, and from the transactions and proceedings of other English and foreign public societies, and from periodicals, etc. The collection is a very complete one, particularly in Italian, French, and German, and may almost be said to be unique.

Sir Francis Ronalds has been long known to the scientific world as the author of a small and now scarce book, the first ever published on the subject of the electric telegraph.* This book describes a system of electric telegraphy which its author invented and worked as early as 1816. The invention was a perfectly practicable one, and has gained for its author, from more than one learned authority, the title of "the father of telegraphy." The invention, however, was produced some thirty years before the world was prepared for it, as is shown by the reply of the Secretary of the Admiralty in dismissing an application which had been submitted to him.

Sir Francis Ronalds was, from his scientific attainments and from his knowledge of foreign languages, well fitted for the great task he set himself, and it is very much to be regretted that he did not live to see his work issued from the press. He received the honor of knighthood about three years before his death, in recognition of his early contributions to electrical science.

* "Descriptions of an electrical telegraph and of some other electrical apparatus," by Francis Ronalds. 8vo. London, 1823.

CHARGING SYSTEMS BASED ON ACCOUNTS WITH BOOKS.

BY MELVIL DEWEY.

IN keeping the account with the book on either of the first three systems—book-
ledger, laced-sheet ledger, or ledger cards—the same ruling is wanted. This varies from the reader account only in requiring no volume column, and usually less width of column for the number of the borrower than for the class and book columns of the book number in the first system; in fact the ledger, sheets, and cards, as ruled for the borrower's account, could be used without change for the book account. Some libraries class their borrowers, so the three columns instead of one might be a convenience; and if not, there is little difficulty in using the three columns as if they were one. This system could be adopted therefore without change of blanks. The number and title of the book are written at the head, instead of the number and name of the borrower. In place of the book number we write the number of the reader who takes the book. The name could be used, but would be an intolerable labor.* The loaned and returned columns would be the same, and filled the same, as in the reader accounts. For all these rulings 5 cm. would do very well, unless possibly in the few libraries where the number of borrowers exceeds 9999, and so requires more than four figures. In no case would

* In the same way some libraries charge books by titles instead of by numbers. In either case greater definiteness is secured, as the title of the book or name of the reader is seen at once without consulting the list of numbers. None but very small or very leisurely libraries would think of it for either system, for unless the entries are made so brief as to be almost worthless for identification, the labor involved makes writing out of titles and names impracticable.

more than half of the 12½ cm. card be desirable.

The book and laced-sheet form of ledger are almost never used for this account with books, since so many pages are required for even a small library. If to be preserved, it is kept on ledger cards; otherwise on temporary slips. The constant additions and changes in the books, and the rapidity with which certain popular books fill up the space allowed them, make it specially desirable to secure all the flexibility of the pure card system. Its advantages are pointed out under the head "Account with Reader or with Book" in a previous article.

If a library were not growing (and some special collections are complete), there would be advantages in a book or laced-ledger account. Frequent additions make either almost out of the question, for the numerical order of the books *must* be observed, and this requires constant rearrangement of the sheets, unless indeed the Sunday-school style were adopted, and the books arranged and charged by accession numbers. In that case either of the book forms could be used, and permanent records kept of the use of each book, but the sheets would fill at different times, and only by a great waste could the system be made enduring. I should therefore dismiss these book ledgers as impracticable. The ledger cards do very well until the library attains considerable size, when they outgrow the space assigned, as they did at Newton. See *July JOURNAL*, p. 230.

A variation on the ledger card plan is to keep the cards of the books *out* in a separate box, just as the temporary slips are kept. A larger check box is used, and the cards arranged by dates or subjects. Except that

it takes so much extra room, the advantages are the same as for the check box described further on. The ledger cards of books *in* are kept in another box, or in the book itself on the shelf. The latter plan seems to me by far the best, as each book on the shelves has inside its cover a complete history of its reading since the current card was put in. This system is really a combination of the ledger card and slip systems. For this the P-size cards are best, and should be arranged in the slip box on ends, instead of sides, to save space. This plan was used with success at Evansville, and is described in the *JOURNAL*, v. 1, p. 254. I think it, or a variation of it, could be made about the best possible system for many libraries.

The slips are the most convenient in examining the library without closing. We found this at Amherst one of the greatest advantages of the slip system. It is of course only one of the many uses to which we put the ability to know almost instantly the whereabouts of any book. On these advantages I said something in the Government Report, p. 631. They are enough to turn the scale in favor of the slip system book-account, if only one can be afforded.

While many small libraries adopt this ledger-card system, it would not be too much to say that "account with the book" means to most library people the temporary slip system. Mr. Jackson's article (see p. 230) should be read here, as I shall not repeat what is there given, what immediately follows being in the nature of notes upon that. My experience is very strongly in favor of the 5 × 5 cm. blank slip, costing in fine, stiff paper only 15 cents per M. Many libraries that have always thought something much larger necessary, have adopted this smaller size, and with uniform satisfaction. At the most, I should not think of any thing larger than the large standard size, 5 × 7½ cm.

It is not necessary to date the slip on the return of the book, its removal from the

check-box being sufficient evidence of the return. Considerable labor may thus be saved, though sometimes the date on the old slip may be wanted; certainly not in those libraries that do not preserve the slip.

At Amherst we always allowed the borrower to fill out his own slip, which he signed and handed in as his request for the book. This slip with his signature was kept until he returned the book. If "out," the slip may be handed back and kept for use another day, if the reader is going to try again to get the same book. This signing of the name, instead of the registration number, has some advantages, for the signature is direct evidence of having received the book, it being practically a note of hand for it.

We formerly allowed the reader to carry the book away at once on delivery, and the slips were arranged in proper order at the leisure of the attendant. There are reasons not occurring to one unfamiliar with the system why this had to be abandoned. Their discussion comes properly in the next article on specific systems. Under certain conditions this plan can be made practicable, and then one great advantage of the slip system is apparent, for books can be delivered with great rapidity; the entire labor of charging being done at the leisure of the attendant, without delaying the borrower a moment.

I much prefer to arrange the slips in a check-box, divided by a thin wood or metal partition, each 2 cm., into compartments, rather than arrange in boxes with date blocks, as is common. My plan takes a little more room, but with such a case as we use the same desk space answers, and we can certainly find our slips much faster. Each partition commences a new class of slips, and the numbers at top, bottom, and sides of the check-box make almost instant reference possible. The slips stand loosely in these boxes, so that the eye often sees

just the slip wanted before the hand touches the box, and in any case it is much quicker work to remove or insert slips in this loose arrangement. The objection that the uniform boxes imply uniform circulation has no weight, for I should assign more boxes to the classes most used, and number accordingly. I urge the partitioned check-box as a decided improvement on any system where the slips are crowded together. This box will be further improved if made on a slope of about 30° , each box rising a little above the one in front, so that the numbers across the top of the call slip show plainly. The bottoms of the little boxes should be made horizontal and not on the slope, or the slips will wedge together and be inconvenient. The best width is $5\frac{1}{2}$ cm. for the regular 5 cm. slip. If fitted closer the slips cannot be distributed so rapidly. The partitions should be at least every 2 cm., to secure the best position of the slips. If more space is given, they will fall over and get curled. Twice as many divisions would suit me better. The height of the box should be from 2 to 3 cm.; probably half the height of the slip would be a good standard for the partition in front. In the sloping boxes it would be ample if each box rose 1 cm. above the one in front. Readers and attendants would be instructed to write the numbers of the book at the edge of the slip, and these would be plainly visible for the coarsest writing if 1 cm. were allowed to each box. If the desk space would not admit of so much slope, get what you can; a little is better than none. As the box always stands lower, the line of sight magnifies the real rise of each tier of boxes. From experiments I should put as the limits of size for a case, to be used standing, not sitting, a height and depth of 50 cm., and a width of 110 cm. This would allow 50 boxes to each of the 20 tiers, each box rising 1 cm. above the one in front, and having 1 cm. space, allowing

the partitions to be of tin and so not counting the space they would occupy. A greater width would make it necessary to step right and left to reach the outside tiers. If preferred, fewer boxes could be made in each tier, setting the partitions 2 cm. apart. There is an advantage in dividing in 20, 25, or 50, as the numbers then run symmetrically and can be much more easily remembered in quick work. I should not fear to attempt rapid work with such a case of 1000 boxes, which I suppose to be the largest practicable for a single check-box. As a matter of fact very few if any libraries would wish any thing so elaborate. I mention it to show the possibilities of the plan. A case of 100 or 200 boxes would be the size oftenest used, for the mistake is oftenest in getting too small rather than too large a case.

It requires constant supervision by one understanding the details of its use to get such check-boxes made so that they will work perfectly. There must be no cracks where the slips can catch their thin edges. There must be no sharp corners to cut the fingers in rapid work, etc. Some boxes will be made of the best model, and put on the list of library supplies for those wishing them.

I have said so much about the check-box because I esteem it one of the greatest aids a librarian can call in, and I hope to induce many to adopt it. Having this, the account with the book is kept by dropping the slip on which it is called for into its proper box in strict numerical order, and leaving it there until the book comes in. Its removal cancels the charge, and the librarian has not touched pencil to paper. A dating stamp should be used as a check-mark that the book is really issued, and also because readers often get the wrong date, or omit it altogether if it is left to them to date their slips.

Some throw these slips away at once; others keep them a limited time to provide

for tracing injured books; some few libraries preserve them permanently. It seems folly to keep mere waste paper, after any possibility of needing them for reference has passed. The backs can be used for indexing, or any official work where confusion will not occur with the old call numbers. Nearly all libraries wisely make their statistics from these slips. The most elaborate plan is to arrange the returned slips in order of numbers and count for each class. The more common plan is to divide into fewer heads, and to throw each slip withdrawn from the check-box into its proper statistics box. Common paper collar-boxes answer well enough for small libraries. Some use ballot-boxes. Some check off with pencil as each book comes in or goes out, a method too laborious to find favor.

This completes the methods for a simple account with either borrower or book. I have not mentioned the ledger day-book system, based on the date of issue. This seems to me too cumbersome. Perhaps I am wrong. A simple blank book has the date at the top of a page, a left-hand column for the reader's numbers, then columns for the book numbers. These lines are filled as the books are issued, and they can be charged very rapidly, as only two numbers—of reader and of book—have to be charged. It is much faster than a ledger system, where the page must be found for each entry. A column at the right is filled with the date of return. Unless this day-book is posted to a reader's or book-account ledger, nothing can be found except by knowing the date. In this respect it is no worse than the common slip system, arranged entirely by dates. I have sometimes thought this system might be perfected so as to be as good as any. Perhaps some reader has already done so, and will submit his experience. This system belongs to that third class mentioned in the first article. It is neither a *book* nor *reader*

account, but a *date* account. I should increase my broad classing of accounts to three, and include this. Though little used, it is the most natural system of charging, for nearly all mercantile business is done on this day-book principle; and in charging books it would naturally be copied. An incidental advantage of the plan is the ease with which different classes of books can be issued for different numbers of days, *e.g.*, books of one, two, and three weeks. The one-week books can be charged on the regular page for the day; the two weeks, on the page to be used one week from to-day; the three weeks on the page to be used two weeks from to-day for the regular one week books. Thus all the books on any page will be due the same day, and the sending of delinquent notices, etc., will be reduced to the greatest possible simplicity. This plan would require loose sheets which would be best any way for this kind of an account. At crowded times, like Saturday afternoon and evening, any number of persons could charge and receive books. At the sacrifice of both book and reader accounts this gives an admirable system. These advantages can be secured by posting, but, as I said above, I fear this would be too cumbersome. I hope I am mistaken, for the plan is a pleasing one. Many libraries, specially the smaller ones, will wish to keep both a reader- and a book-account. I should certainly do so if possible, for the reasons given on p. 219. For most libraries I should use the p(ostal) size ledger-card for my reader account, and the slip and check-box for my book account. For special libraries and circumstances some of the other systems might be preferred, but after considerable experimenting I preferred this combination.

Of registration, borrowers' cards or certificates, sending notices to delinquents, reservation of books wanted, and other parts of a complete charging system, I shall say something in another article.

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

OCTOBER, 1878.

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WE omit much other matter this month to give space to the official report of the Oxford Conference, the first annual meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, although the second English Conference, and we think neither American nor English readers will begrudge this space in their delight at the very great success of this gathering, and the still greater promise given by it for the future usefulness of the Association. We beg leave to present the thanks of our readers to Mr. Henry R. Tedder, for his admirable summary of the proceedings and discussions, prepared under a pressure that can only be appreciated by those who have experienced the thousand and one duties to be performed, difficulties to be met, and questions to be answered in the management of such a gathering. We regret that we cannot find space until our next issue for the interesting descriptive notes on the Conference which Mr. Mullins and other editorial associates have been kind enough to send. All accounts are unanimous in pronouncing the Conference a thorough success; and the expressions of regret at the absence of the American visitors of the previous year are very general and cordial. How agreeable the gathering was, is best suggested by the peremptory disposition of the Council's proposal to make the Conferences less frequent than annual.

THE Report of the Council is an admirable showing of the strength of the Association, full of the spirit which is sure to make the organization permanently useful, and to earn for it the gratitude of the English people in recognition of the influence it must have in elevating the national life. If the American Library Association had come to nothing else, it would have been worth the work it cost for the mere "passing along the torch" to this sister organization abroad, and Americans must be grateful that the suggestion of their example has enabled them to pay back one of the many debts of gratitude due the mother country.

THE Committee reports are full of interest. The splendid work done by our recent associate, Mr. E. B. Nicholson, in the Metropolitan Free Libraries Committee, has not yet borne the fruit it deserves, but it is impossible that the metropolis of England should not sooner or later respond to its inspiration.—We share the regret of the Committee on a General Catalogue of English Literature that the British Museum has not yet been willing to co-operate with its efforts, but that also must come with time. The plan presented by the Committee is all-comprehensive; we are not sure but it might be more likely to be realized if some method of division were adopted, in which case it might be suggested that the later books which are practically in the hands of the present generation are perhaps entitled to first consideration.—The way in which the British librarians have taken hold of their part of Poole's Index is altogether to be commended.

THERE is but one cause for regret in connection with the Conference, and this is expressed from England as well as in America—that nothing further was done toward agreement in Great Britain and between the two countries as regards the practical details of cataloguing. Co-operation in more important matters depends so much upon agreement in this that we note the almost entire absence of discussion on such points with no little feeling of disappointment. But through the Council, the Committee on the General Catalogue, and the monthly meetings, much can be done, as it has been done in America, between the Conferences. On the question of sizes a conservative feeling was strongly expressed by several authorities; but as the confusions of the old system manifest themselves more and more, there will be less hesitancy to make some kind of change.

UNITED KINGDOM ASSOCIATION:
OXFORD CONFERENCE.

THE first annual meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom was held at Oxford, in the rooms of the Union Society, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the 1st, 2d, and 3d of October, 1878.

Among those who attended the meetings were Baron Otto de Watteville (from the Ministère de l'Instruction Publique, Paris), Comte de Marsy (Compiègne), Count Balzani (Bibl. Vittorio Emanuele, Rome), Prof. Leopold Seligmann (Berlin), Prof. Dr. Carl Dziatzko (Breslau), Rev. H. O. Coxe (Bodleian Librarian), Dr. Acland (Radcliffe Librarian), Rev. Mark Pattison (Lincoln College), Prof. Jowett, Prof. Max Müller, Prof. H. J. S. Smith, Prof. Stubbs, Prof. Rolleston, Prof. W. Stanley Jevons, Rev. H. E. Reynolds (Exeter), Rev. Dr. Charles Rogers (Roy. Hist. Soc.), Rev. J. Clare Hudson (Horncastle), Rev. Llewelyn Thomas (Jesus Coll.), Rev. T. Hunter (Dr. Williams' Library), T. C. Snow (St. John's Coll.), Rev. Dr. Malet (Trinity Coll., Dublin), T. W. Shore (Hartley Institution, Southampton), J. D. Mullins (Birmingham), J. T. Clark (Advocates', Edinburgh), W. H. K. Wright (Plymouth), W. E. A. Axon (Manchester), James Yates (Leeds), J. P. Briscoe (Nottingham), J. Small (Edinburgh University), E. Brunt (Hanley), R. L. Clarke (Queen's Coll.), J. M. La Barte (King's Inn's Library, Dublin), F. T. Barrett (Glasgow), R. Harrison (London Library), D. Dickinson (West Bromwich), A. I. Frost (Society of Telegraph Engineers), A. Morgan (Walsall), T. J. De Mazzinghi (William Salt Lib.), E. Jeffery (Northampton), J. W. Knapman (Pharmaceutical Society), C. E. Scarse (Birmingham), G. Hanson (Rochdale), J. Elliot (Wolverhampton), W. S. W. Vaux (Royal Asiatic Soc.), Cornelius Walford, Henry Stevens (Vermont), E. Parfitt (Devon and Exeter Institution), D. B. Grant (Leamington), J. B. Bailey (Radcliffe Library), R. Garnett and G. Bullen (British Museum), H. T. Folkard (Wigan), P. Cowell (Liverpool), J. McLauchlan (Dundee), H. Warner (Leamington), T. Woodrow (London Library), W. Chase Walcott, W. Brace, W. P. Courtney, R. Hudson, R. Platt, G. Lamb Price, C. Welch (Guildhall), J. Pink (Cambridge), C. Tulloch (Perth), T. Harwood (Oxford), C. P. Russell (Bath), W. H. Turner and W. H. Allnutt (Bodleian), Rev. W. D. Macray, A. J. Birch (New Swindon), W. S. Brough (Leek), C. W. Sutton (Birmingham),

E. Barnish (Rochdale), W. H. Gee (Oxford), T. H. Ward (Brasenose), Mark Judge, Rev. J. Rigaud, etc., and the Secretaries (H. R. Tedder and E. C. Thomas).

FIRST DAY, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1.

The chair was taken at ten o'clock by the Bodleian librarian (Rev. H. O. Coxe, V.P.), who delivered an address of welcome to Oxford, commencing with a tribute of admiration to the President of the Association, Mr. Winter Jones, whose absence through illness the meeting would, he said, join with him in deeply regretting. In speaking of him and of his leaving the British Museum, they naturally thought of his successor, and there again he was qualified to speak in high approval of Mr. Bond. He now came to the report, which seemed to him to have been most admirably done. The Conference of the previous year had been very successful and he hoped the present meeting would meet with equal success; but he agreed with the Council that biennial or even triennial reunions should be the rule in future. With regard to the Universal Catalogue, he could scarcely see his way to its completion without energy and gold, and the Association had no money nor librarians any superfluous energy to spare. Such a catalogue must be prepared by men who had nothing else to do, and he must confess that much printed literature had no right to be found in a general catalogue. He was in favor of special catalogues, and instanced that of Mr. Edwin Wallace, of Worcester College. With reference to the copyright commission, he protested against any withdrawal of the presentation copies from the libraries benefited by the existing act.

It did not meet the case to give one copy to the British Museum only. They knew that there were such things as fires and thieves, and one copy was not enough to put in a state of safety, and, therefore, the four other libraries had an additional claim. Another thing, London was not all England, and they really ought to allow people in the provinces to go to other centres without a long journey to London. He hoped they would find much to learn in the present meeting, and concluded with a hearty welcome to Oxford, where he thought they would see a good many things of immense interest, including the libraries.

The first Annual Report of the Council on the progress of the Association was read by one of the secretaries and adopted.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council have the pleasure to present to the members their first Annual Report on the progress of the Association.

The Conference of Librarians in October last, attended by representatives from every important library in the country, with many American and foreign visitors, was a great and genuine success. The Library Association was then founded with the hope of carrying on the labors thus commenced, its object being "to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, for the purpose of promoting the best possible administration of existing libraries, and the formation of new ones where desirable. It shall also aim at the encouragement of bibliographical research." The full and interesting Report, of which a copy was supplied free to every member of the Conference, occupied the whole attention of the Secretaries for many months. It would have been impossible to issue so complete a volume without the assistance of the Association; and, indeed, it may be fairly called its first publication.

The first year in the life of an institution such as ours is one rather of preparation than of production; but if little has yet been accomplished, the Council have good hope for an active and useful future, as the rapid increase in the number of public libraries is developing a wide interest in library work. Librarianship is gradually assuming exact and scientific proportions, and as librarians make the educational value of their profession more apparent, they will certainly occupy in public estimation the high position deserved by the importance of their duties. Our energetic American colleagues are setting us a good example in their endeavors to secure a more elevated standing for library work, and the Council hope to arrange a scheme of co-operation with them in producing a digest of instructions for cataloguing and library management. The Council feel that the creation of a high professional standard among librarians, and the promotion of a fellow-feeling of mutual helpfulness, are among the most valuable objects to be gained by the Association. By means of the annual and monthly meetings opportunities will be given for the thorough criticism of the best methods in every branch of librarianship, and a general agreement will be gradually obtained on many still unsettled points. The librarian of the future must be a thorough and systematic worker, one eager to avail himself of

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every new professional contrivance, and, above all, a man whose principal aim shall be that readers may derive the utmost benefit from a collection it is his pride to keep in the greatest state of efficiency.

The Public Libraries Acts have now been in operation since 1850, and have been adopted by nearly every considerable town in England. The great success which has, in every instance, attended the libraries thus established, will make their further spread throughout the country a matter of certainty, and this result is greatly due to the energetic and business-like character of the public librarians. A large proportion were active members of the Conference, and many have since joined the Association. In the course of the year, the Acts have obtained acceptance in Hawick, Preston, St. Albans, and Wrexham, and libraries consequent upon their passing have been opened in Wednesbury and Wigan; but London is been still shamefully behind every other important town in the kingdom. The Association has been helping the work of promoting new libraries by the action of the Metropolitan Free Libraries Committee, which was formed at the Conference, and of which some of the officers of the Association are members. A report from the secretary will be placed before this meeting.

Members.—On the 24th of September, the names of 168 members had been enrolled, including the twenty-eight honorary members. 141 may be called professional members, being either librarians or assistants, or, as belonging to library committees, "engaged in the administration of a library." The remaining 27 consist of those interested in library work.

The twenty-eight American and foreign members of the London Conference have been elected honorary members, as it was considered fit that they should be invited to become connected with an Association in the foundation of which they took such a practical interest. Letters of hearty sympathy have been received from all of them, and it is hoped that some will be able to attend this meeting.

The 123 libraries represented by members will be found enumerated at the end of these reports.

Finance.—The Treasurer's Balance Sheet shows our gross income down to September 24th to have been £160 5s. 4d. and the expenditure £94 16s. 10d., leaving a balance of £65 8s. 6d. in his hands. A sum of £58 8s. 4d. was transferred to the Association by the Confer-

ence, but this has been more than swallowed up by the expenses of publishing and distributing the Report (£64 2s. 4d.) On the other hand, the Council have thus far been saved the expense of hiring rooms for their monthly meetings.

Monthly Meetings.—The fact that so much of the library and literary interest of the country is concentrated in London has produced an important feature in which we differ from the American Association. We refer to the Monthly Meetings, when papers and suggestions on all subjects relating to the aims of the Association are considered, and library appliances and designs examined. For the reasons already alluded to, it was found impossible to arrange for any meetings before March, when the first Friday in each month was fixed as the most generally convenient day, and the thanks of the Council are due to the Board of Management of the London Institution, who with great liberality have placed their board-room at the disposal of the Association. Bearing in mind the delay in beginning the meetings, the Council thought it best not to exercise the power of suspending them during July, August, and September. Seven meetings have consequently taken place. Detailed accounts have appeared in the LIBRARY JOURNAL from time to time, including the papers at length, the various business transacted, and, in most instances, a report of the discussions. The Council hope that every member will endeavor to increase the circulation of the LIBRARY JOURNAL, which has already done so much for librarianship under the admirable editing of Mr. Melvil Dewey.

[Here follow summarized reports of the several monthly meetings, already given in the JOURNAL.]

Museum and Library.—The Council are glad to state that a beginning has been made towards a museum of library-appliances by the gift of some of those exhibited at the Conference. Attention may be drawn to plans of the Liverpool, Grenoble, and Radcliffe libraries, models of the British Museum shelf-fittings, the Eastlake portable bookcase, Tonks's patent shelf-fittings, Mr. F. T. Barrett's indicator, newspaper-holders, impressions of book-stamps, samples of buckram and binding material, with numerous reading-tickets, book-tickets, labels, circulars, etc. There are also specimens of the Boston Athenæum card-catalogue, their manuscript catalogue, the cards of

the American Library Association, and Mr. F. Weaklin's accessions-catalogue.

The presentation of many of the bibliographies and catalogues shown at the Conference has laid the foundation of a bibliographical library. Among them are Mr. C. Walford's "Insurance Cyclopædia," the U. S. Report on Public Libraries, Mr. H. Stevens's "Two Thousand American Nuggets," etc. Catalogues have been received from the libraries of Birmingham, Blackburn, Boston, U. S. (Athenæum and Public Library), Bradford, Brooklyn, U. S., Chicago, Copenhagen, Coventry, Dublin (National Library), Edinburgh (Advocates' Library, complete as far as published), Leeds, London (Broadwood's, Guildhall, Gray's Inn, London Institution, Society of Compositors, United Service Institution, Westminster), Palermo, Plymouth, Rochdale (Equitable Pioneers' and Free Library), Sydney, Victoria, as well as the two massy volumes of Mr. Quaritch's Catalogue. They amount to a considerable number of volumes, together with reports, library bulletins, and pamphlets. In answer to the circular application for library statistics a valuable collection of annual reports and library catalogues has been sent in. It is hoped that arrangements may be made to render the books, pamphlets, and specimens of library-appliances possessed by the Association available for the practical use of members; and the Council will thankfully receive donations for the library and museum.

Parochial Libraries.—In his presidential address at the Conference, Mr. J. Winter Jones drew attention to the numerous old parochial libraries scattered over the kingdom, and at a subsequent sitting a letter was read from the Rev. J. M. Rodwell, advising with the President that some investigation should be made. In consequence of these suggestions, Mr. T. W. Shore, Secretary of the Hartley Institution, offered to undertake an inquiry on behalf of the Association. Containing, in some instances, valuable works, these libraries are for the most part unguarded and uncared-for—sometimes, indeed, exposed to pillage and decay; and the Association will accomplish a good work by awakening general interest in their condition and contents. A circular letter and list of questions having been drawn up by the Secretaries, they were addressed to all the archdeacons in England and Wales by Mr. Shore, and the answers will form the basis of a

paper to be read by him before this meeting. Feeling that those libraries should be better known, the Council think that the publication of authentic information with regard to them will be a public benefit.

Bibliography.—One of the objects of the Association is "to aim at the encouragement of bibliographical research." The importance of this study to librarians is so obvious, that the Council regret that little has yet been done in this direction, and it is hoped in future to give special attention to discussing matters of interest to bibliographers in the monthly meetings, when rare and curious books may be exhibited.

Officers.—The Council feel assured that the members will have learned with much regret the resignation by their President of his office of Principal Librarian of the British Museum, and hope the failing health of Mr. Winter Jones, which was the cause of his retirement, may be restored by the rest he has so well earned in a long and useful career, honorable to himself and his profession.

On the 23d of May a letter was addressed by Mr. E. B. Nicholson to the Council, stating that his many and increasing duties compelled him, much against his will, to resign his joint-secretaryship. The two following resolutions were passed in consequence, and read at the June meeting:

1. "The Council receive with very great regret the resignation by Mr. Nicholson of his function of joint-secretary. The talent and untiring energy shown by Mr. Nicholson during his brief tenure of office, make the Council extremely loth to part with so admirable a coadjutor, and they trust that his valuable assistance may continue to be given to the cause of the Association in some manner that may make fewer calls upon his already much occupied leisure.

2. "That Mr. Ernest C. Thomas, late librarian of the Oxford Union Society, be elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Nicholson."

Statistics of Libraries.—The collection of library statistics should naturally be comprehended in the work of our organization, and is indeed necessary to its further extension. The Secretaries have compiled a list of the libraries in Great Britain partaking in any way of a public character. The list, imperfect as it must be, contains the names of about 1,500 libraries, and is more complete than any thing that can

be found elsewhere. It does not include the numerous smaller libraries attached to religious and scholastic institutions. Circulars have been sent to all these establishments where they possess librarians, and from a certain proportion returns have been received, furnishing a body of authentic and valuable information. It is to be regretted, however, that in the larger number of cases no answers have been yet returned; and, as showing that this is due rather to thoughtlessness than to intentional neglect, it may be mentioned that only a small proportion of the members of our own Association have filled up the form of questions sent to them. The result of the whole inquiry, when concluded, will be placed by the Secretaries before the Association.

The Council propose to recommend to the Association before it separates the desirability of holding biennial, or even triennial, reunions in future. It is natural enough to meet again in Conference at the end of our first year, in order to provide more effectually for the regular and systematic carrying on of our operations. But it may be doubted whether there exist sufficient reasons for calling upon our members henceforward to make such special exertions as are necessary for an Annual Congress, and whether in the intervals a business meeting in London once a year will not be enough.

Mr. J. Potter Briscoe (Free Public Libraries, Nottingham) read a paper on "Subscription Libraries in connection with Free Public Libraries," observing that his attention had first been called to the subject at Bolton, which showed him that class distinctions were created by reason of the advantages afforded through the payment of subscriptions, and these were opposed to the spirit of the law under which free public libraries were established. The gain did not compensate for the inconvenience caused by allowing subscribers to take books from the reference library, which ought at all times to be available for research. In the course of discussion Mr. McLauchlan (Dundee), said that he regarded the subscription department of the public library as an unmixed blessing. Mr. Hanson (Rochdale) followed on the same side; but Mr. Pink (Cambridge) deprecated such an arrangement, and Mr. Wright (Plymouth) stated that he was not prepossessed with the Bolton system. Mr. Yates

(Leeds) stated that owing to the depression of trade in Chicago his suggestion that the deficiency in the revenue should be made up by subscriptions was favorably received.

Mr. E. C. Thomas, late librarian of the Oxford Union Society, read a paper on "The Libraries of Oxford and the uses of College Libraries." After a brief account of the principal Oxford libraries, and a reference to the leading arrangements at the Bodleian, Mr. Thomas discussed the question of the application of college libraries. The scheme of specialization proposed by college librarians some years ago had not been very thoroughly carried out, although Balliol, under the care of Mr. Cheyne, had devoted special attention to philosophy, the history of religious systems, and to Old Testament literature. Worcester had also cultivated the subject of Classical archaeology, and Mr. Wallace has just published a special catalogue. Another reform had been quietly taking place of late, the opening of the college libraries for use as reading-rooms by members of the college. The future development of the college system should include three points. Each college should make its library a thoroughly good library of reference for the ordinary subjects of Oxford study. Next the office of librarian should be made a substantial one, and properly paid. The remuneration of £10 or £20 paid by wealthy establishments is absurd. Thirdly, if specialization is to be continued, the libraries of the colleges should be reciprocally available, and open for proper periods. It might also be desirable for the libraries to exchange books on each other's subjects. To accomplish these things larger funds than those at present devoted to library purposes are required. For the twenty colleges making returns, the whole amount so spent in 1871 was under £2,500. Why should not each college suppress a prize fellowship or two in order at once to benefit its own passing generation of students, and to contribute to the permanent advantage of research?

Prof. Rolleston, as a curator of the Bodleian, said he was glad that that library did not lend its books all over the country, like the Cambridge University Library. Mr. Bullen, Count Balzani, the Bodleian Librarian, Mr. Ashton Cross, and Mr. T. H. Ward also spoke.

Rev. H. Reynolds (Cathedral Library, Exeter), read a paper on "Our Cathedral Libraries, their History, Contents, and Uses." Mr. Reynolds gave an exhaustive account of the valu-

able collections attached to English cathedrals, and circulated among the members a tabular statement detailing some interesting statistics connected with them. He urged that greater facility should be given for the use of their manuscript and printed treasures. The same subject was discussed by the Rev. Chancellor Parish of Chichester.

Mr. W. H. K. Wright (Public Library, Plymouth), read a paper on "Special Collections of Books for Provincial Libraries." Mr. Wright described some of the collections which had already been begun, and suggested the advisability of gathering books of local interest in every public library. Mr. Bullen and Mr. Garnett, Mr. Welch (Guildhall), Mr. Cowell (Liverpool), Mr. Parfit (Exeter), and Mr. Briscoe (Nottingham) heartily agreed with Mr. Wright in his suggestions.

Mr. T. W. Shore (Hartley Institution, Southampton), read a paper on "Old Parochial Libraries of England and Wales," and gave an interesting account of the unguarded state of some of these collections, which in many instances contain valuable works.

Before the adjournment the Baron de Watteville said a few words, and stated that he came in the name of the French Minister of Public Instruction to express the great interest he took in the labors of the Association. In the afternoon the members were shown over the Bodleian and old Radcliffe Libraries by Mr. Coxé, who received the Association in the evening in the hall of Worcester College, the Vice-Chancellor, the Master of Balliol, and other distinguished members of the University being among the guests.

SECOND DAY, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3.

The chair was taken at 9.45 A.M., by the Bodleian Librarian (Rev. H. O. Coxé, V.P.), and the Report of the Committee on a General Catalogue of English Literature was placed before the meeting.

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON A GENERAL CATALOGUE OF ENGLISH LITERATURE.

The question of a Universal Catalogue has been so often discussed by librarians that it could hardly fail to be brought before the London Conference of 1877. Mr. Cornelius Walford's proposal took the more practical shape of a "General Catalogue of English Literature," and was so far in harmony with the suggestions

made by the late Mr. Dilke in the *Athenaeum* in 1850.*

Before separating, the Conference formally recommended the subject to the Library Association, and the Council accordingly appointed a sub-committee to consider the question and to report to the Oxford meeting. The Committee consisted of Messrs. Bullen, Ashton Cross, Harrison, Overall, Thomas, Vaux, Walford, B. R. Wheatley, and H. B. Wheatley, with the secretaries, E. B. Nicholson and H. R. Tedder.

The matter has also been under the consideration of the Society of Arts. A specimen of a proposed catalogue was printed by Sir Henry Cole in 1875, and later the Prince of Wales asked the Council of the Society of Arts to find out what would be the cost of producing a catalogue of all books printed in the United Kingdom to the year 1600. The investigations of the Council were not, however, restricted to this point. Although no formal communication has taken place between the Society of Arts and the Library Association, several members of this Committee gave evidence before the Society of Arts, including Mr. Bullen, Keeper of the Printed Books at the British Museum; Mr. E. B. Nicholson, one of the first secretaries; Mr. Ernest C. Thomas, and Mr. Cornelius Walford. A digest of the evidence then taken accompanies this Report. Mr. Ashton Cross, Mr. Harrison, our treasurer, and Mr. H. R. Tedder, our joint-secretary, were unfortunately prevented from attending.

Early in the consideration of the subject it appeared desirable to engage the Trustees of the British Museum to take some share in the task. A correspondence accordingly took place between the Principal Librarian and the Secretaries, the result of which is, that the Museum authorities do not at present see their way to take part in the preparation of the proposed General Catalogue.

Meantime your Committee continued the anxious and careful discussion of the many questions that must be decided before it is possible to agree upon a satisfactory scheme. For the present the Committee limit themselves to submitting to the first annual meeting of the Association a certain number of points upon which they have come to some agreement. These are contained in the following resolutions:

* See five articles on the British Museum Report in the *Athenaeum*, 1850, especially the concluding article on May 11th.

I. That the general catalogue of English literature should consist of an alphabetical catalogue under authors' names,* to be followed by class bibliographies or subject-indexes.

II. That it should comprehend all books printed in English, either in the United Kingdom or abroad, including pamphlets, broadsides, newspapers, periodicals, together with translations of foreign works, but not editions in foreign languages, even with brief English notes.

III. That it should be brought down to the latest possible date.

IV. That titles should be abridged, but the abridgment should be indicated.

Upon what lines a General Catalogue should be constructed is the question to which in this preliminary Report the Committee confine themselves. What practical steps must be taken to secure the preparation and publication of this Catalogue is the question that next has to be considered. It is, however, certain that without the co-operation of the British Museum in one shape or another the difficulties of the task will be infinitely increased. The Committee are, therefore, reluctant to accept the answer of the Trustees as final. If it is the pleasure of the Association that the Committee should continue their labors, the question will be taken into further consideration.

Signed, by order of the Committee,

ROBERT HARRISON,

Chairman.

September 18, 1878.

Before discussion, Mr. Cornelius Walford and Mr. W. E. A. Axon read their papers, the former debating "Some Practical Points in the preparation of a General Catalogue of English Literature," and the latter asking "Is a printed Catalogue of the British Museum practicable?" Mr. Walford's plan was to collect titles on a form of slip invented by himself, and of which he distributed copies among those present. The British Museum must form the nucleus of any General Catalogue, to be supplemented by slips from other large libraries and special collectors. Mr. Axon said that one of the four copies of the present manuscript catalogue of the British Museum contained the titles of the books in their shelf

* The entering of anonymous and pseudonymous works will be treated as part of the whole question of cataloguing rules.

order. This formed an imperfect classified catalogue of the library. However rough, it would be readily made fit for publication, and each section could be issued separately. Revision would be absolutely necessary, but should be confined within the narrowest limits in order to promote celerity and despatch. In the discussion which ensued, Mr. Bullen said that the printing of a General Catalogue of English Literature and a catalogue of the British Museum would be accomplished in time. He believed, however, that librarians were not so ready to expend their time in making catalogues as Mr. Walford thought. In three years the catalogue of English books down to 1640 in the British Museum would be printed. It was his firm desire to have a complete catalogue printed of the contents of the British Museum. Rev. Dr. C. Rogers (Roy. Hist. Soc.) thought a general catalogue of the literature of the world was possible. Mr. J. D. Mullins was glad that the British Museum had resolved to print even a portion of their catalogue. Mr. E. B. Nicholson was of opinion that the British Museum catalogue ought to contain books (to be marked with an asterisk) which the Museum did not possess. Mr. Garnett was in favor of printing the entries in the British Museum catalogue. Prof. Dziatzko, Count Balzani, and Mr. Axon continued the discussion, and at its conclusion the report was adopted unanimously.

Dr. Seligmann read his paper "On the Signification of Libraries, Past and Present," in which he traced the history of collections of books from the time when the sacred tables which formed the library of the Jews were carried with them in their journeys. He thought a history of libraries would be a worthy object of the consideration and co-operation of the Association, fit to rank beside, or possibly before, a disquisition on the modes of cataloguing and indexing, and he hoped that every librarian would co-operate with his colleagues by preparing a history of his own library.

Dr. Acland then proceeded with a description of "The Foundation and Progress of the Radcliffe Library." The trustees had tried to fulfil what would have been the wishes of the founder were he now living, in the midst of wants which did not exist in his day. They endeavored to supply the requirements of real students of nature who worked in Oxford, without distinction of classes or sex. They had increased the grant for scientific works, removed the books on science to the museum, arranged with the Bodleian that scientific periodicals should be deposited at the museum, and they borrowed scientific works from the Bodleian, while lending in return their beautiful dome (warmed and lighted in the evening) as a reading-room. He hoped a structural connexion between the Bodleian and the Camera would be made. Any one is admitted, unless a com-

Folio No.

[Size of British Museum Slip. 25 x 10 cm.]

Specimen Slip proposed by Mr. Cornelius Walford, for the purpose of collecting the data necessary for General Catalogue of English Literature.

1. [Date of Work or Edition.]	2. [Name and titles of author.]	4. [Place of Publication.]
	3. [Full title of Book, Tract, Broadside, etc.]	5. [Name of Printer.]
		6. [Name of Publisher.]
		7. [Size of Work.]
		8. [No. of Pages.]
		9. [No. of Plates, Illustrations, Maps, or Charts.]
10. [Whether Reprint, or Translation.]	11. [No. of Contributing Library.]	

plaint has been lodged against him, and only one exclusion on that score has been made in twenty-five years. Prof. Rolleston, in the course of discussion, pointed out that only the British Museum and Smithsonian Institution had larger scientific libraries than the Radcliffe. He was sorry to see that a divorce between scientific objects and the literature of science was about to be made in London by the removal of the British Museum collections to another part of London. Dr. Acland then described an iron book-case of great stability and compactness used in his library.

Mr. James Yates (Public Library, Leeds) read a paper on "Indicators," describing several systems, and praising very highly that invented by Mr. Elliot, of Wolverhampton, in 1870. Mrs. Christiana White (Free Library, Reading), the only lady librarian present, thought a small indicator for each class of books desirable. Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Elliot, Mr. McLaughlan, and several others took part in a very interesting discussion.

Mr. P. Cowell (Public Library, Liverpool) exhibited a new card catalogue in which the cards are held in place by two fixed wires, passing through holes at the bottom corners. A slit cut at a certain angle from the holes enables the card to be inserted or withdrawn very readily.

Mr. F. T. Barrett (Mitchell Library, Glasgow) read a paper "On a Form of Stock-book or Accessions-catalogue," setting forth an elaborate arrangement wherein all details connected with the acquisition of a book were tabulated; a ready means of compiling trustworthy statistics of the constitution of the library formed part of the system.

A communication from Mr. C. Madeley (Warrington Museum) was read, "Description of a 'Demy' Book Scale," which claimed for its advantages its simplicity, its real and natural basis, and its requiring no new notation to be introduced. Mr. Thomas drew attention to the report on size notation of the American Co-operation Committee; but Mr. Tedder remarked that library science being still in its infancy, it was premature to recommend any new notation for the general use of publishers, bibliographers, and librarians. The Bodleian librarian (Rev. H. O. Coxe) and Mr. Bullen would be sorry to change the existing symbols.

In the afternoon the members visited the libraries and buildings of Balliol and All Souls, and in the evening they were received by the Radcliffe librarian (Dr. Acland) at the Museum.

THIRD DAY, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3.

The chair was taken at 9.45 A.M. by Mr. J. T. Clark, V.P. (Advocates' Library, Edinburgh). The proceedings commenced with the Report of the Secretary of the Metropolitan Free Libraries Committee, Mr. E. B. Nicholson.

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE METROPOLITAN FREE LIBRARIES COMMITTEE.

Since the appointment of the Committee by the late Conference it has been increased to twenty-eight members, nine of whom belong to one or other House of Parliament, and nearly all of whom are well known to the public.

Their mode of procedure is this: When they have decided on appealing to a parish they address a letter to its Vestry. The letter shows the crying need of local libraries in London, and the objections to founding such libraries on any system except that provided for by the Acts. It explains the Acts, and points to their long and successful working throughout the kingdom; an Appendix, compiled from parliamentary returns, and any later reports, giving the size, use, and cost per inhabitant of public libraries in all places of more than 40,000 inhabitants. This letter the Committee print, and send a copy to each member of the Vestry, even where, as in many Vestries, there are more than 100 members. It is not, indeed, the Vestry who can adopt the Acts—that must be done by the ratepayers at large; but, if the Vestry be already well inclined, the letter will probably draw from them a favorable resolution, which will be of the greatest service to the movement in that parish; while, if otherwise, they are certainly the persons whose active opposition the Committee should first seek to disarm by facts and figures. If a friendly resolution is passed, the Committee at once put themselves in communication with the chief local supporters of the movement, for the purpose of concerting methods of informing the ratepayers on the question at issue.

The Committee have at present appealed to seven Vestries. St. Pancras has given an unfavorable reply, on the ground that, in 1874, a public meeting of ratepayers declined to adopt the Acts, the majority being some 30 out of about 270. St. Martin's in the Fields has not formally answered, but is known to be against us. Islington and Marylebone have simply acknowledged the letter. In these parishes no further steps have yet been taken; but influential persons in Marylebone have asked for

the assistance of the Committee, which will doubtless be given them before long.

The Hackney Vestry, however, resolved, by no less than 38 votes to 13, that the opinion of the ratepayers should be taken. The local committee soon included a large proportion of the most noted men of all shades of political and religious belief, who worked unflaggingly; and at a large public meeting the feeling in favor of the Acts was apparently overwhelming. It was, however, untruly stated that Mr. Mundella had a Bill before Parliament to raise the maximum library-rate from 1*d.* to 3*d.* in the pound, and this statement was placarded by our opponents all over the parish, while at the statutory meeting of the ratepayers not one of the most respected inhabitants was allowed to make himself heard in favor of the Acts. Before the poll a letter was obtained from Mr. Mundella in which he explained that his defeated Bill of 1877 only proposed to raise the maximum rate to 2*d.*; that it was intended to benefit towns like Sheffield and Birmingham, which had to maintain museums out of the library-rate; that he had not brought in this Bill again; and that if he did so he would exempt the metropolis from its operation. This letter was at once printed and widely distributed. Will it be believed that after this the opponents of the Acts issued and circulated in countless numbers a new handbill in which it was simply and broadly stated that the ratepayers were being asked to tax themselves to the amount of 3*d.* in the pound? I myself, in the very last hour of the poll, took copies from the hands of four agents distributing them in a single street. But this was not all. In Hackney seven voters in every twelve are compound householders, and some of these men were openly threatened with a large increase of rent unless they voted against the Acts; while others were treated at public-houses, and brought to the polls in cars and wagons. The end of all was the defeat of our cause by 4389 votes to 631, four-fifths of the ratepayers not voting at all.

Meanwhile the Special Purposes Committee of the Kensington Vestry had reported in favor of adopting the Acts, and accepting the offer of Mr. James Heywood to hand over to the parish the free library founded and maintained by him at Notting Hill. Steps were accordingly taken to convene a meeting of the ratepayers. But of these circumstances the Metropolitan Free Libraries Committee received no information, and though, on eventually learning them, they

endeavored at the last moment to render such help as was possible, this was far too late. Here also the public meeting was one long clamor against the supporters of the Acts, who, on their part, as at Hackney, gave the most courteous hearing to its opponents. The proposal to adopt the Acts was rejected by 97 votes to 83 on a show of hands, no division, far less a poll, being called for by those who had taken the direction of the movement. They are said to have considered that a poll might not alter the result, but would rather irritate against them that public feeling which they now hope to win over to their side another year.

The seventh parish to whose local authorities the Committee have appealed is Whitechapel. There the Board of Trustees have resolved by 19 votes to 10 that it is desirable that the parish should have a public library, and that some of the little parishes round it should, if possible, co-operate to obtain one. As the ratable value is not large enough to give such a library a proper start, certain friends of the parish have promised it £800, and I have undertaken to obtain 1000 volumes, on condition that the Acts are adopted. As Whitechapel prides itself on having often shown the way to larger and wealthier parishes, there are strong hopes that it will do so again.

It is pleasant to be able to say that the Committee can do something towards promoting the adoption of the Acts in the provinces as well as in London. From Bedford, Cheltenham, Hull, Jarrow, and York they have been written to for copies of their letter, for information on points of law, and for advice. I trust that librarians of public libraries, who are also members of the Association, will from time to time furnish me with their last printed reports, so that in each edition of the Committee's letter the latest statistics may be given. The first edition of the letter is printed in the *Library Journal* for March, and I shall be happy to forward a copy of the second to any one who wishes it. If the Committee's funds, which have hitherto come entirely out of their own pockets, will allow of it, they will probably print many other library-statistics, together with hints on the organization of new libraries and their branches.

The report was adopted on the motion of Mr. R. Harrison, seconded by Mr. J. D. Mullins.

The Report of the Committee on Poole's Index was then read:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON POOLE'S INDEX.

At the last sitting of the Conference of 1877 it was resolved—

"That the English Committee to co-operate in preparing a new edition of Poole's Index consist of Mr. Robert E. Graves, Mr. Robert Harrison, and Mr. J. D. Mullins."

Mr. Graves and Mr. Mullins finding themselves unable to attend any meeting of this Committee, the Library Association, at its third meeting, held on the 3d May, 1878, resolved to add to the Committee Mr. Ernest C. Thomas, Mr. C. Welch, and Mr. W. Brace.

The Committee, as thus constituted, have held several meetings, and beg to submit the following report:—

Its first meeting took place on the 8th May, when Mr. Harrison was elected Chairman.

Academy	}	Rev. H. O. Coxe	Bodleian Library, Oxford.
Athenæum			
Saturday Review	}	R. Harrison	London Library.
Bentley's Quarterly		J. B. Bailey	Radcliffe Library, Oxford.
Archæologia		C. Welch	Corporation Library London.
British Almanac and Companion		J. Black	
Builder		Jón A. Hjaltalin	Advocates' Library, Edinburgh.
Christian Remembrancer		H. R. Tedder	Athenæum Club, London.
Chronicle		W. Brace	
Congregationalist			
Economist	}	C. W. Sutton	Manchester Free Library.
Literary Gazette			
Home and Foreign Review		Rev. T. Hunter	Dr. Williams's Library, London.
London Magazine		T. B. Reed	
Mirror		H. T. Folkard	Wigan Free Library.
Naval Chronicle		W. H. K. Wright	Plymouth Free Library.
Parthenon		E. Peacock	
Penny Magazine		P. Cowell	Liverpool Free Library.
Calcutta Review	}	E. C. Thomas	
Rambler			
Reader (part)		J. T. Clark	Advocate's Library, Edinburgh.
Reader (part)		J. T. Presley	Cheltenham Library.
Register		C. E. Scarse	Birmingham Old Library.
Saturday Magazine	}	W. R. Credland	Manchester Free Library.
Social Science Review			

Some of the work has been already received, and the Committee are anxious to receive the remainder at an early date, as Mr. Poole announces that the American contributors are now sending in their portion of the work. In conclusion, the Committee appeal to the members of the Library Association for assistance in identifying the writers of anonymous articles in English periodicals, as authentic information on this subject will very greatly add to the value of the Index.

13th September, 1878.

Mr. Brace moved and Mr. Welch seconded the adoption of the Report of the English Committee on Poole's Index.

VOL. III., No. 8.

On examining the list of periodicals given out to the American libraries, it was found that about thirty English serials, which the Committee considered it desirable to include in the Index, remained unallotted.

On the 4th June a circular was issued by the Committee, containing a list of these periodicals, and inviting co-operation in the work of indexing them. A further appeal for aid was made by the chairman in the columns of the "Athenæum" of 11th May, 1878.

The result was favorable, and many gentlemen in different parts of the country responded to the appeal, to whom the Committee desire to express their thanks. The following periodicals have been undertaken by the indexers whose names are attached to them:

Mr. J. B. Bailey (Radcliffe Lib., Oxford) read a paper on "A Subject Index to Scientific Periodicals," in which, after referring to the "Bibliotheca Zoologica" of Carus and Engelmann, the "Zoological Record," and Dr. Carus's "Zoologischer Anzeiger," he said the work might be done by the co-operation of different societies, libraries, and individuals. It was a pity, he thought, that when the Royal Society's present catalogue was made, the papers were not entered under the subject as well as the author. He advocated an arrangement of the papers under subjects; in fact, the Royal Society was wanted to do for science what Mr. Poole had done for the cause of general English periodical literature. A lively discussion followed, Mr. Garnett re-

marking on the great use such an index would be to him in the reading-room; Mr. H. Stevens said that although the Royal Society had sold but few copies of their work, they had numerous applications for gratis copies; Prof. Rolleston discussed the subject from its scientific side; and Messrs. J. W. Knapman and A. I. Frost, both representing scientific societies, suggested that such societies should be invited to co-operate.

Mr. E. C. Thomas read a paper on "A Proposed Index to Collectaneous Literature," in which he proposed to do for collected works, volumes of essays and miscellanies, what has already been done for periodical literature in Mr. Poole's index.

Mr. R. Harrison (London Library) read a paper "On the Salaries of Librarians." Mr. Harrison enumerated the manifold duties of a librarian, and gave statistical details of the low rate at which many librarians of important public libraries are paid. He urged the foundation of a benevolent society. The Baron de Watteville added a few words to the picture drawn by Mr. Harrison. The librarian is a duplex being. One the one hand, he must preserve the works confided to his care; on the other, he must liberally communicate them to the public. He is at once master and servant. The salaries of librarians are neither in England nor in France proportionate to the importance of their duties. The Rev. H. E. Reynolds spoke on the same subject, and Mr. Tedder suggested that some system of payment by results should be adopted, to insure the better remuneration of efficient librarians.

A paper was read by Mr. D. B. Grant (Free Public Library, Leamington) "On Covering Books in American Cloth for Lending Libraries," a system which is said to have worked well at Leamington.

Mr. C. P. Russell (Royal Literary Institution, Bath) read a paper on "The Filing of Newspapers." The first thing required is a strong portfolio, rather larger than the paper to be filed, with eight eyelet holes at the back, four on each side. Through these holes a common boot-lace is passed, crossing from side to side so as to form four cross bands inside the folio. The papers are stitched through the centre of each paper to the cross bands, and at the end of each month the laces are cut outside the folio, liberating the file from it. The papers of three months are sent to the binder, who fastens them together by the strings. No more stitching is

required. The papers are from the first in proper order, and perfectly secured.

Mr. W. H. Allnutt (Bodleian Library) read a paper on "Printers and Printing in the Provincial Towns of England and Wales." Having traced the progress of the art of printing, and the restrictions which had been placed on it until 1693, he remarked that in order to show the rapid development of the press down to the end of the eighteenth century, he had appended a tabular list giving the earliest date at present ascertained at which printing was known to have been introduced in each town, which he had compiled with the hope of stimulating librarians to collect and preserve the local literature of their districts. Count Balzani, Mr. Bullen, and Mr. H. Stevens complimented Mr. Allnutt on his paper, the latter remarking that the list contained a valuable mass of information.

Mr. W. E. A. Axon read a paper "On Professorships of Bibliography," in which he said that at the lowest estimation bibliography might claim to be the handmaid of all sciences. The professors would show how courses of reading might be at once systematic and varied, and how even reading for entertainment might be made to serve a higher purpose. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Bullen joined in the discussion.

Mr. Henry Stevens read a paper on "The Postal Union and International Copyright." He described the scheme of the Postal Union, and ventured to call the nations comprised in it "The Republic of Letters." He said that the agreement to allow all books to enter without further tax than 1*d.* for each two ounces had been violated by the United States, solely in consequence of the efforts of seven or eight firms, who made it a practice to reprint European books. The subject was closely connected with that of international copyright. The United States ought be compelled to retire from the convention or to keep it.

The Chairman moved that the Library Association tender their warm thanks to the Union Society for the use of their rooms. Prof. Dziatzko seconded the vote, which was acknowledged by Mr. Dawson, librarian-elect of the Union Society.

Votes of thanks were then passed to the Rev. H. O. Coxe, Dr. Acland, the Rector of Lincoln (who furnished secretaries' offices to the meeting), the St. Catherine's Undergraduate Club,

and the honorary secretaries, Mr. H. R. Tedder and Mr. E. C. Thomas.

It was resolved to meet next year in Manchester, and that the representatives of Lancashire at this conference should be appointed a committee to carry out the necessary local arrangements for the next annual meeting at Manchester, with power to add to their number, and with Messrs. C. W. Sutton and G. L. Campbell as honorary secretaries.

The following recommendations were also adopted :

That the Council be recommended to consider whether, for better public information on the cathedral libraries, deans and chapters might be respectfully requested — 1, to print their catalogues ; 2, to advertise the hours, days, and rules of admission. Their librarians should be invited to join the Association.

That a list of old parochial and old grammar-school libraries as known at present to exist in the United Kingdom be published in the proceedings of this Association, and that Dr. Bray's Association be invited to co-operate in completing this list.

That the Council be recommended to take all opportunities of influencing public opinion in favor of the Public Libraries Act, and also to obtain government aid to meet local funds raised for library and museum purposes.

Mr. Tedder announced the receipt of a hearty invitation from the American Library Association to visit them in Boston, in June, 1879.

The officers of the Association were re-elected, and Mr. E. B. Nicholson (London Institution), Rev. Mark Pattison (Curator of the Bodleian), Mr. Cornelius Walford, and Mr. W. H. K. Wright (Plymouth) were added to the Council in place of the members who retired.

The meeting was then closed ; in the afternoon the members visited the Taylorian Library and Picture Gallery, and some of the old college libraries.

EXPERIMENT AND EXPERIENCE.

THE success of the Association thus far, and the much greater success towards which we confidently look, depends on each member's doing his or her part. We must focalize in the central office the results of the experience and experiments of the entire library world. From that office, through the committees, and chiefly through the JOURNAL, the results can be given out as widely. Every member of the Associa-

tion and every reader of the JOURNAL owes it to those who are giving so much labor to this work to send in whatever his experience may teach him from month to month. A postal card is often sufficient to give a result valuable to scores of other libraries.

"I have tried such or such a plan, recommended in such or such a place, and it failed because . . . or it succeeded because . . ." Such a sentence is often enough to save some fellow-worker months of study and experiment. If each will do his part, every one will have the experience both of his own library and of every other library, and will be able to learn practically more each year than he could otherwise in a lifetime. In this way we shall rapidly approximate to the most perfect methods of doing all our work. The man or woman who fails to do his or her part is not treating the rest fairly. I have thought of circulating a pledge for signatures, which should bind every reader to send at least a postal card each month, reporting what he had learned in the month about library management. Boiled into the fewest possible words, these would be most interesting and profitable reading. Mr. Winsor, with his ten branches at Boston, had, we all thought, a wonderful opportunity to study all questions of library economy. Each of our readers may have, not ten but hundreds of branches, all laying their experience at his feet for him to study, if he will also be a branch and lay his experience at the feet of the rest.

I protest stoutly against the selfishness with which some get all they can from the rest, but never give any thing in return, and I propose a division of the non-reporting librarians into two classes: 1) The *mean* men, who have learned things but don't tell the rest of us; 2) the *stupid* men, who have never learned any thing about libraries.

I don't mean that we want long articles, or that we want a word from any one who has nothing to say. We don't care for articles at all, unless you feel like writing them. We want the results of your work to divide with all your fellow-workers. Send it to us in the briefest possible form, and we will serve it out as wanted.

Probably most of those who read this note of appeal will agree that nothing is asked that they ought not to give gladly. When in this frame of mind resolve to do as follows: When you see a question in the JOURNAL to which you know the answer, send it by return mail.

When you read an article or note on which you can throw additional light by correcting a mistake, adding a new experience, or suggesting what appears to be a better way, do it then and there. If you think it probable that some one else will do the same thing, don't run the risk. It don't do the least harm to send the same matter, and it does harm if neither sends, as will probably be the case if you neglect your duty. Don't put off writing till you have leisure to write a long letter or an article, but send in your point on a postal card or letter at once. It will be all the better for being short and written while the matter is fresh in your mind. Is it any more than your share? Can you not profit by this experiment and experience column? Are you willing to draw from it month after month without contributing what may come in your way?

After reading this, sit down and write your first card and on it say, "I accept the proposed pledge and will send at least a card after reading each issue of the JOURNAL." Twelve cards per year cannot be a great burden to any one who is in earnest in library work. It will not take a great amount of time editorially to read them all, and the sentiment of the Association and of all our readers can be known as well almost as if we had a monthly conference. The practical value must be very great, and the brevity will not be the least of the advantages. Its success depends on each one pledging his part promptly. Do you approve the plan? If so, write your first card and say so.

We have many friends who have many times sent many things; but the majority of our readers adopt the plan of give and take, in which one does all the giving and the other all the taking. Library management, like society, "is a grand scheme of service and return—we give and take, and he who gives the most in ways directest, wins the best reward."

MELVIL DEWEY.

COMMUNICATIONS.

MR. CUTTER'S NUMBERING PLAN.

APPRENTICES' LIBRARY, }
NEW YORK, OCT. 10, 1878. }

MR. CUTTER in his article "Another Plan for Numbering Books," alluding to my scheme, says: "Several combinations of letters have a number in common, e.g., names beginning with Ann, An, Ang, Anr, Ans, all have the

number 11, and if, as will happen now and then, books by Annesley, Anquetil, Anrope, and Anson, come into the same section, the numbers are insufficient; one is forced into the incongruity of using letters, and must add a, b, c, d, to the 11."

An experience of seven years has convinced me that difficulties of this kind are of very rare occurrence, and I have yet to meet with an instance where they cannot be removed (1) by using the preceding or succeeding number, e.g., if Anquetil has No. 11, and Annesley come into the same section, number him 10, or if that is already taken, number 12. (2) If both the preceding and succeeding numbers are occupied, it is evident other parts of the section will be equally crowded (as my table of combinations is *proportioned* to the probable increase), and that the class has overflowed the limits assigned to it: there is therefore urgent need for *subdivision* which will remove the difficulty at once.

Mr. Cutter's plan, like the British Museum scheme, seems to me to be intended for very large libraries. He believes in the most minute subdivision in the first instance, and therefore cuts off his mode of relief by subdivision of the *class*. He gets over the difficulty objected to above by subdividing his *book numbers*, which require him to distort the natural order of numbers, and in some instances necessitates an accumulation of figures and symbols; in fact, as he says, "If one will use figures enough one may have ten thousand or one hundred thousand." I believe in economy of figures, for various self-evident reasons, and my scheme is therefore planned to require at the most only *four* figures in addition to *two* class letters, and the *title* letter, and these few symbols are sufficient to number at least 100,000,000 volumes.

I think it is a fatal mistake, which every librarian will regret sooner or later, to lay out an elaborate and minute scheme of classification. The divisions ought to be proportioned to the number of books, in fact, to the number of book-cases on hand, especially if an arrangement by sizes is used; otherwise the larger sizes will be separated from the smaller ones on the same subject. The subdivisions should be made only as the need for them arises, and if his scheme is elastic enough for this purpose, the librarian can always keep abreast with the march of intellect and the future development of knowledge.

J. SCHWARTZ.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

EDITED BY CHARLES A. CUTTER.

1. NOTICES.

CONANT, T. J., *D.D., assisted by his daughter Blandina*. General and analytical index to the American encyclopædia. N. Y., D. Appleton & Co., 1878. 8 + 810 p. Q. cl. \$5.

Of the several elaborate indexes of current literature, whether of newspapers, magazines, or annuals, which have lately appeared, that of the new edition of the American cyclopædia, just published by the Messrs. Appleton, must be conceded to be the most ambitious effort and the most successful attainment. Unquestionably the great importance of the Cyclopædia itself gives to the index of its voluminous contents much of its value; but the index is fully worthy the Cyclopædia, and cannot fail to add immensely to the practical usefulness to students of that invaluable compilation of the best minds and authorities of the country.

Messrs. Appleton deserve thanks for publishing what can prove a profitable work only in conjunction with a publication whose financial success has long been assured. How far co-operation between Dr. Conant and his daughter extended it is impossible to say; the greatest compliment that can be paid their joint labor is to say that the index appears in its method the work of a single mind; and the credit due each of the compilers cannot be therefore fixed; but no praise they are likely to receive can be called exaggerated or undeserved. They have not only conferred great obligations upon students generally, but have done much to advance the art of indexing by compiling a very elaborate one upon the only proper method, in a most conscientious manner.

The method adopted is the simple one of the alphabetical arrangement. All others are absurd because based upon the false assumption that the student is familiar with the system or classification of the compiler. The index which requires a preface to direct the student is never perfect. To be sure Dr. Conant's has a preface, but the preface is useless. It is only an advertisement, and might have been omitted without detriment. All the great advantages of the index are apparent to the casual examiner at a glance. No student of any intelligence, with a clear idea of what he is in search of can go astray, so plain is the system and method.

We are all the more disposed to give unstinted praise to this volume because of the strictures we were forced to employ in condemnation of the index lately put forth by this same house of the fifteen volumes of their Annual cyclopædia. That was a work without the slightest value; *this* students will soon learn to consider invaluable as a ready reference.

It is not a mere index of the titles of articles in the cyclopædia. Such an index would be useless, since the articles are arranged in alphabetical order in the work itself. It is an analytical index of every article in the sixteen volumes, embracing a reference to every topic treated of, incidentally or otherwise. This method is extended to the utmost detail, and no subject of any importance incidentally alluded to in any leading article escapes entry in its proper alphabetical order. There is in the Cyclopædia no leading article, for instance, on "Imprisonment for debt," but in the Index under "Debt, imprisonment for" (p. 254), and under "Imprisonment for debt" (p. 406), will be found several references to the topic treated of incidentally under the titles of "Debtor and creditor" and "Acton Burnell." A thousand like illustrations might be cited to show this advantageous feature of the compilation. To indicate the extreme detail of the index, it may be mentioned that in like manner the philosophical toy known as "Prince Rupert's drops," alluded to in the leading article on "Annealing;" "St. Cuthbert's beads," alluded to in the article "Eucrinite;" the pseudonym "Boz," mentioned in the biography of Charles Dickens, are each given a line in the index, with reference to the volume, page, and article in which they are treated of in the Cyclopædia. Still further is the value of the index enhanced in this matter of detail by the entry of subjects which are alluded to only in illustrations. Under the article "Balance" in the Cyclopædia there is an engraving of the torsion balance of Coulomb, which is not described in this connection because treated of at length under "Electricity;" nevertheless under "Torsion balance" (p. 750) in the Index there are references to the three several and separate allusions in two different volumes of the Cyclopædia.

The reader will recognize that it is at once unpleasant and difficult to find and point out flaws in a work of such pronounced merit as Dr. Conant has given us. The errors are of execution rather than method, and arise, we

are convinced from actual experience in similar work, from the impossibility of two persons working with absolute harmony of ideas upon such a work. We have said that it was difficult to detect any errors arising from lack of unity of method between father and daughter; it is possible only to detect minor blunders in executing details. To recur again to our first illustration—the reference to "Debt, imprisonment for," etc. There are two entries for this topic, one under "Debt," the other under "Imprisonment." Naturally the references to volume and page of the Cyclopædia ought to be the same under both entries. They are not. Under the first we have "V, 745." Under the second we have "I, 78." Obviously both references should have been given under each entry. The reader will probably consider the writer captious when he adds that this is the worst error of the sort he has discovered. But the compiler cannot defend or even consider as trivial a blunder which compels the student of his index to look in two places for references to a single topic.

Certain innovations in this class of works, introduced by Dr. Conant, by which the pronunciation of words is fixed, and the subdivisions of columns are indicated in the directions to volumes and pages, are of doubtful utility. The column is designated by number 1 or 2; the letters *a*, *b*, *c*, designate first, second, or third part of the column. When the reference is near the line of division, the letters are combined, *1&c* designating a reference just about two thirds down the first column.

The general method, however, is so clear that these details do not serve to confuse. The errors, if indeed they prove to be such, are in the right direction of greater detail and greater convenience to the student.

The one great error of omission is the failure to group references under topical heads. This is not to be so harshly condemned in an index of a cyclopædia as in that of a magazine, since by reason of the alphabetical arrangement of the former, reference to any desired topic may be readily arrived at. Nevertheless we cannot but think Dr. Conant has made a mistake here. To the student of any special branch of study it will prove a serious loss. Take the botanist, for instance. The only reference in the index is to the general article on "Botany, III, 131." Yet there are hundreds of references to plants, flowers, and trees which ought to have been grouped, in alphabetical

order, under the topical heading of "Botany." In the same way there is no grouping of the score of articles on or references to "Arctic explorations." To find all in the Cyclopædia which alludes to this interesting special study, one must refer to seven distinct biographical and geographical articles, in perhaps as many different places in the same index. Of course one object of an index is to save labor to the student. The grouping of these references in a single paragraph would have saved all the labor now entailed by separate references. When one takes more important special topics, such as "Biography," "Natural history," "Travel," etc., to each of which there are thousands of references in the Cyclopædia, the error complained of will appear in all its magnitude. It would appear ungracious not to apologize for any fault found with so very able, precise, and conscientious a work as this, but we are sure a hearty desire to encourage indexing until it is made perfect will justify us even in the eyes of those criticised.

W. F. G. SHANKS.

2. RECORD OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

[The extracts made in this department are much condensed, and connecting words are often altered or inserted in order to piece the sentences together.]

A. Library economy, history, and reports.

EGLESTON, Nathaniel Hillyer. Villages and village life, with hints for their improvement.

N. Y., Harper, 1878. 8 + 326 p.

Pages 295-306 contain "The village library." "There is danger that both time and character will be wasted by a large part of the books, magazines, and newspapers now in circulation; for the young, in their ignorance and inexperience, are especially liable to be influenced by the weakest and worst kind of reading. Among the most desirable social and moral influences, therefore, especially in our villages, is that of a good public library, a well-selected collection of books, constantly accessible."

"The secret of success in founding a library is to give it a good start. A library, to insure that it will be properly taken care of and its growth secured, needs to be so large at the outset as to make on the people on whom it is to depend for its support and growth the impression that it is worth caring for." Mr. Eggleston then gives a sketch of the history of one New England town library, in which a noteworthy point is that from the beginning, when it had 2000 v., it has been open five afternoons in the week.

WEST BROMWICH FREE LIBRARY. 4th ann. rep.

West Br., W. Britten, printer by gas power, 1878. 15 p. O.

Added, Lending Lib. 72 v., Ref. Lib. 34; total, L. L. 8985, R. L. 1835; issues, L. L. 78,575, R. L. 1139. A novel and useful table shows, not merely as usual the percentages of issues in the different classes, but "the average

number of times that each volume in each class has been issued," in other words, it classifies the "turn-over." Some of the figures are: Juvenile lit. 23.87, Fiction 15.74, Magazines 7.82, Science and art 3.69, Hist., Biog., and Travels 2.87. It is remarkable that American libraries have never reported their turn-over, but only their issues. The use of this comparative table of turn-over and issues is that it shows at a glance which departments of the library need strengthening. A large turn-over with a small percentage in any class means of course that the class has not its fair share of books, and a small turn-over combined with a large issue shows a class which can afford to wait for a time while others are filling up.

Les bibliothèques publiques aux Etats-Unis.—

Journal gén. de l'imprim., chron., Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, March 9. 1 + 4 + 1 + 5 + 1 col.

A résumé of a notice of the U. S. Special report on public libraries, by G. Depping, in the *Journal officiel*. He remarks especially upon: 1. The ease with which, in a country neither small nor centralized, such complete statistics were compiled; 2, the great efforts that are made by the libraries to attract and satisfy the public; 3, the efforts that are made to guide and form the taste of the public; 4, the small losses by theft; 5, the great liberality of private persons; 6, the immense growth of libraries and their consequently necessary differentiation; 7, the beginnings of co-operation. Here the extracts in the *Chronique* end.

Cincinnati ahead; the first public library in the West established here; proof that it antedated the noted Coonskin Library of Ames Township, Athens County.—Cincin. d. gazette, Oct. 7. 1½ col.

The proof is given in a letter by Rob. Clarke. It appears that the "Coonskin Library"—"Western Library Association"—was first suggested in 1803; the shares were subscribed and the laws and regulations adopted Feb. 2, 1804; the books were received near the end of that year; and the library opened with a librarian and 51 books on Dec. 17, 1804. Whereas the first meeting of the Cincinnati Library was held Feb. 13, 1802; the subscription paper was dated Feb. 15, the librarian elected March 8. The books probably were the whole or part of a lot of 156 offered for sale in Cincinnati, Feb. 2, by Mr. A. Carey, of Philadelphia. On the other hand, the Western Literary Association became "a well regulated and admirably conducted public library," and the Cincinnati Library appears to have soon died. "No new subscriptions being made, and no new purchases possible, interest in the books which had been read and reread would flag, especially after book-stores were established. The library would be gradually neglected and finally disappear, perhaps to be divided among the original stockholders, so that not a vestige of it would remain."

Conference of Librarians.—Examiner, July 6. 3 col.

A review of the "Transactions and proceedings." "The first occasion on which English librarians have acted collectively or vindicated for themselves a corporate existence; the first also on which the claim of library administration to scientific rank has been asserted in a language destitute of any single term equivalent to 'Bibliothekswissenschaft.' . . . The meeting was undeniably a great success, due to three principal causes—the zeal and tact of the chief organizer, Mr. E. B. Nicholson; Mr. Winter Jones's acceptance, at considerable personal inconvenience, of the presi-

dency, which gave the gathering prestige and nipped possible rivalries and jealousies in the bud; and the unexpected advent of a contingent of American librarians. The earnestness of these gentlemen lifted the meeting at once into a higher region of thought and feeling; their good sense and familiarity with the usages of public assemblages expedited business, while their unassuming modesty and frank cordiality rendered it agreeable; and their suggestions had all the freshness and practical adaptability to be expected from men who have thought out their systems for themselves.

"Mr. J. A. Cross's theme, the possibility of framing a universal catalogue of literature, is of much interest, but it will be long before the undertaking becomes practicable on the scale contemplated. . . . Much, however, might be effected by less ambitious methods. Mr. Winter Jones and Mr. Garnett have shown how easily the enormous Catalogue of the British Museum—a long way on the road towards an index of universal literature—might be made generally accessible, in the shape of classed indexes, with very moderate assistance from the State. Another easy and practical step would be, as suggested by Mr. Cross, to bring together into one *corpus* the numerous indexes to special branches of literature already existing, together with the lists of authorities which add so largely to the usefulness of so many publications, but which frequently are forgotten or neglected for want of any machinery to record them. Since Mr. Cross's paper was read, an apparent step in the direction indicated by him has been taken by the Society of Arts' notable scheme for the publication of a complete Catalogue of English Literature before 1640. With so vast a field of usefulness in the very path of the Society, it required no common ingenuity to blunder out of it into something so useless. The project might have come with propriety from the Society of Antiquaries: the Society of Arts was established in the interests of commerce, manufactures, and mines, which it gravely proposes to promote by publishing lists of Latimer's sermons and Shakespeare's plays. It would be difficult, in fact, to devise an application of public money less calculated to benefit anybody. There would be reason in the Society's undertaking a list of technical works since 1640, instead of books of all kinds before 1640: an index to the Royal Society's valuable, and with such an appendage invaluable, Catalogue of Scientific Papers would be still more serviceable. But the day is remote when useful, unassuming work will be preferred to claptrap. . . .

"Some of the speakers seemed hardly to apprehend the distinction between the librarian who merely collects and the librarian who spends. It is quite true, as remarked by Mr. Coxe, that the former officer is not a censor of morals; but it is equally true that the latter is a dispenser of funds, and he has no right to spend the money intrusted to him for the purchase of good books upon bad ones, even in the expectation apparently entertained by some, that the study of Jack Sheppard will beget an interest in Julius Caesar. It is at the same time quite possible to be over-scrupulous. It is hard to restrain a smile at Mr. Cowell's apprehensions that Captain Marryat may mislead a young man respecting Her Majesty's naval service, or Cooper beguile him into thinking more highly of the North American Indians than he ought to think.

"Mr. Axon does not make it perfectly clear whether he would have the Museum Catalogue printed as it stands, or whether he would be content with subject-indexes to the most important departments of knowledge. The former would be a gigantic work, requiring a very long time to complete, and when completed only partially accessible on

account of its size and cost. The latter would result in a collection of manuals—cheap, handy, useful, and remunerative. Bibliographical accuracy being no object, and cross-references unnecessary, the Catalogue could be condensed into a surprisingly narrow space, and no one would be obliged to possess the whole of it. The existing alphabetical ms. Catalogue must, of course, be maintained, but must be gradually converted into a printed one for a reason not adverted to by Mr. Axon—the impossibility of otherwise accommodating it within the library. Hecatomb after hecatomb of useful books of reference is annually sacrificed to the growing monster; and it is patent to everybody that sooner or later it will claim the reading-room for itself. Yet the Museum goes on serenely, adding volume after volume, and the public wait patiently to be turned out. The readiest solution of the problem is indicated by Mr. Winter Jones's hint that 'the slips which are inserted in catalogue volumes might be printed instead of written, and in this way a printed catalogue might be obtained, but not a printed catalogue for circulation.' It would, however, be most desirable to publish separate impressions of the most important articles, such as 'Bible,' 'Homer,' 'Periodicals,' 'Shakespeare.' The benefit to literature would be very great, the relief to the bulk of the Catalogue very sensible, and the expense would probably be nearly covered by the sale.

"The appendix has been made the vehicle of a number of valuable particulars respecting the various London libraries, among which may especially be mentioned a synopsis of the history of the 'Museum Library,' by Mr. Bullen, and a remarkably clear account of the most important details of its management, from the pen, as is understood, of Mr. Porter. The volume is concluded by the paragon of indexes, an enduring memorial of the diligence and practical ability of its compiler, Mr. H. R. Tedder."

Similar views in regard to the Museum catalogue are expressed in a letter by R. Garnett in the *Sunday review* for July, 1878, referring to Mr. Axon's article on "The British Museum in relation to national culture," in the Jan. no. of the *Review*.

Exposition à la Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève; par G. Depping.—*Bibliog. de la France*, Aug. 24, 31. 3 + 2½ col.
Repr. with add. from the *Journal officiel*.

Iets over bibliotheekwesen en bibliografie; door J. F. van Someren.—*Nieuws-bl. v. d. boekhandel*, 9, 27 Aug. 3½ + 4 col.

Notices in the first article the U. S. report on public libraries, in the second the Transactions of the London Conference.

B. Catalogs of libraries.

ALÈS, Anatole. *Bibliothèque liturgique*; descr. des livres de liturgie impr. au 15e et 16e siècles, faisant partie de la bibliothèque de S. A. R. Mgr. Charles-Louis de Bourbon (comte de Villafranca). Paris, typ. A. Hennuyer, 1878. 6 + 558 p. O. 150 copies; not for sale.

"Describes minutely," says the *Polybiblion*, Sept., "338 liturgies used in 33 convents and a hundred dioceses. The Hours published at Paris towards the end of the 15th century are sought for because they have a great number of wood engravings often of considerable merit. The same

illustrations were often used by different booksellers. M. Alès gives in a table the number, subject, and arrangement of the cuts in 70 of the Hours. The old Hours often contained poems of greater or less extent; M. Alès has quoted several, among others a dialogue of three living persons and three dead persons, a subject much liked at that time. M. Alès, who, by the way, is author of 'Moines imprimeurs, Paris, Techener, 1872,' has added two very careful indexes of dioceses and religious orders, and of printers and publishers.

"The Count of Villafranca's library, the result of forty years' collecting, contains 5500 works, in about 18,000 v., of which two-thirds belong to religious history and liturgy."

HENGEL (VAN) & EELTJES. *Catalogue raisonné de la bibliothèque de Lambertus Vincentius Ledeboer BZn. Rotterdam, Van Hengel & Eeltjes, 1878. 10 + 388 p. O.*

Especially rich in works on the Fine arts and in illustrated books of travel. Classed, with an index. A small ed. printed and not for sale. Th. J. I. Arnold reviews it in *Nieuwsbl. v. d. boekhandel*, 16 Aug. (1 p.) Condensed his notice is as follows: "Bibliographical charlatanism! was my first impression as I saw sometimes a dozen pages and more given to a single book, and that not an old one; but further examination showed me my mistake. There are 398 p. for only 446 titles; but what titles, what books! In no bibliographical work is there to be found so large a number of important illustrated works so fully and so carefully described. How rich it is may be seen from the section Galleries, in which are contained those of Aix-la-Chapelle, Berlin, Brunswick, Cassel, Dresden, Düsseldorf, Munich, Vienna, London, Paris, Bologna, Florence, Milan, Rome, Sienna, Turin, The Hague, Brussels, and St. Petersburg. How thoroughly the work is done is apparent from the fact that in the collations not only are the number of the plates given, but a list of them with the names of the painters or designers and of the engravers."

JACKSON, F. A., and KEEN, G. B. *Catalogue of the chess collection of the late G. Allen. Phila., 1878. 8 + 89 p. O.*

A remarkable collection, whose varieties are well brought out in the preface. It is offered for sale for \$3000. A note states that Mr. Jackson "merely had to attend to the business arrangements, the whole labor of preparing the ms., as well as reading the proof, having been performed by Mr. Keen."

"The library is the finest on the subject in America, and ranks with the three or four best similar ones in Europe. It comprises about 1000 printed volumes in more than a dozen languages, besides 250 autograph letters, and 50 engravings and photographs. All departments of Chess lore are represented in it; many of the works are of the greatest rarity, some of them not included in any other private collection, some altogether unique. The collections of works relating to Chess Problems, the Knight's Leap, and the Automaton Chess Player, are remarkably copious, the Chess Journals extremely numerous, and the Belles-Lettres of the subject rich beyond all hope of rivalry. The bindings of the books have been described with great precision by Colonel John P. Nicholson, of the well-known firm of Pauson & Nicholson, Philadelphia, and correspond in solidity and beauty with the volumes they protect. The Catalogue itself is neatly printed, and gives the titles of the works with more than the usual fulness, noting from recognized authorities points of bibliographical interest."—*Librarian*.

LIVERPOOL FREE PUB. LIB. 3d supplement to the catalogue, reference dep't, books received Jan. 1, 1876, to Dec. 31, 1877. Liv., 1878. 4 l. + 134 p. O.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN, Lond. List of additions to the library, 1877; [comp. by J. W. Knapman]. n. l. p. 24 p. O.

Arranged as in the main catalog (of 1874), under authors, with references (in same alphabet) from subjects. Societies, etc., are entered under "Associations," "Institutes," "Museums," or "Societies," without uniform references from place or corporate name, and there are other peculiarities of arrangement. L. E. J.

PHILES, G. P. *Bibliotheca curiosa*; catalogue of the library of Andrew J. Odell. Vol. 1. N. Y., 1878. 8 + 251 + [2] p. O. \$2.

"The sale of Mr. A. J. Odell's library is to begin Nov. 13. The Catalogue is a sumptuous work, both in the execution and the printing. When the American collector decides to sell his library, he is as regardless of expense in cataloguing as he is in collecting the books. Neither Libri nor the great Perkins sale, nor any other that we can recollect, was provided with a more showy sale catalogue. Foreign auction catalogues are rarely printed showily; and in our own country, although the Humphreys, Sparks, and Stevens catalogues in one style, and the Rice, Field, and Green catalogues in another, are handsome, nothing hitherto but the Medlicott has displayed such typographical—shall we say?—extravagance. The titles are given *verbatim et literatim et majusculatim*: capitals, small capitals, italics, black-letter make the appearance of the page delightful to the titulumaniac; and almost every work has a note with an interesting quotation or a valuable reference. Public libraries in general would not think of preparing such schedules of their books; but the one library in this city which is at once private, though it no longer belongs to one man, and public, though it is not yet accessible to the many, is to go far beyond this. In his examination before the Committee of the Society of Arts Mr. Arber testified that Mr. Henry Stevens, to insure absolute accuracy in the catalogue he is preparing for the Lenox Library, has the titles of all the books photographed, probably intending to give them according to the scheme which he explained in his paper before the London Conference of Librarians on Photobibliography."—*Nation*, Oct. 3.

ROGERS FREE LIBRARY, Bristol, R. I. Catalogue. Prov., 1878. 140 p. O.

An alphabetical catalog of authors, with references, from "the significant or characteristic word" of titles; in Biography the main entry is made under the subject with a ref. from the author. By a unique arrangement the class number is put *after* the book no. (which is the accession-number). The books are classified on Mr. Dewey's plan, two figures only being used. There is perhaps too much variety of type, the titles under authors being in italic, and the authors and the whole of titles of anonymous books being in small capitals, e. g.:

LAW OF RHODE ISLAND, 1798.

LAYARD, AUSTEN H. *Nineveh and its Remains*. With, etc.

MACDONNELL, D. E. *Dictionary of select and popular quotations*.

WONDERS, ILLUSTRATED LIBRARY OF. SECOND SERIES The obsolete "vols." and 13mo are used; every book VOL. III., No. 8.

number has No. prefixed to it; "unabridged," "Second Boston edition," "illustrated," and the like, are given in full; and the encyclopædias, and Scribner's magazine, Harper's magazine, and the North American review have a separate line for each volume!

ROSEN, Le baron Victor. Les mss. arabes de l'Institut des Langues Orientales décrits. St. Pétersburg, Eggers & Co., 1877. 9 + 268 p. 8". (Col. sci. de l'Institut, 1.) 2 roub.

A highly favorable notice in *Literarischer Centralblatt* 25 May. 14 col. Rosen is praised for treating well known works very briefly, and giving full information about works hitherto undescribed. There are full indexes. A preface by Gamazof, Director of the Institute, gives an account of the origin of the library, which was collected in Constantinople by a merchant, Italinski.

RUTLAND (VT.) HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY. Catalogue, June 1878. Rutland, 1878. 13 p. O. 1000 v. A title-a-line catalog, without imprints. Classed (12 cl.).

SALINS. BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE LA VILLE. Catalogue des mss.; par M. Bern. Proust. Paris, Picard, 1878. 3 p. 8".

Reprinted from the *Cabinet historique*. The library is rich in works relating to Franche Comté.

SIMMONS, G. Sept. 1878. Descr. catalogue of books, etc., embracing colonial and state publications and U. S. government publications. Wash., 1878. 3 + 210 p. O.

The list of "colonial, state, and U. S. docs." fills p. 3-28. "I have completed arrangements whereby all reasonable demands for all kinds of public documents can be supplied."

M. Ulysse Robert, of the National Library of Paris, is preparing the bibliography of all the catalogues of mss. which have ever appeared.—*Athenæum*, Sept. 28.

The Library Committee of the London Corporation has decided to print the catalog of the very interesting collection of old books called the Library of the Dutch Church of London. This library was formed at the Austin Friars Church in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, very narrowly escaped entire destruction when the grand old church was destroyed by fire, and was then handed over to the Corporation, who repaired, rebound, and now have cataloged the treasures for the perpetual and free use of the citizens.

C. Bibliography.

BRUNET, Jacques C. *Manuel du libraire*: Supplément, cont. 1. un complément du Dict. bibliog. de B.; 2. La table raisonnée des articles au nombre d'environ 10,000 décrits au présent suppl., par P. Deschamps et G. Brunet. Paris, Firmin-Didot et C^{ie}, 1878. 15 p. + 1138 col.

"The fifth and last edition of the 'Manuel du libraire' of the late M. J. C. Brunet, 1860-65, was a monument of bibliographical labor and research such as the world had never before seen—a work of inestimable value to all librarians, booksellers, book-buyers, and bibliophiles generally. . . . Besides the descriptions which it contained of

numerous precious volumes, for the most part accurately given, there was a flavor of romance in the notices it gave of the prices paid at successive book auctions for this or that particular rarity. It was accompanied besides by a classified index of subjects, perhaps the best thing of the kind ever published; and, finally, it was handsomely printed. . . . It is true that, while professing to be a general bibliography of rare books, its notices of English and German works—indeed, of all books in modern languages, except those of the South of Europe—were few and scanty. Where, however, in things bibliographical shall a bibliographer look for perfection? . . . This Supplement to Brunet has been compiled upon exactly the same model as the original work, and is issued in the same form. Numerous works are registered which M. Brunet passed unnoticed, as not having been cared for in his time, and the descriptions of many that were chronicled by him have been revised, and quotations given of their increased prices at successive auctions. After the losses sustained by France during the German invasion, it was thought that the prices of rare books would go down in the market; but M. Deschamps shows that this has not been the case."—*Ath.*, Sept. 28.

HUBER, Nik. Die Literatur der saltzburger Mundart; eine bibliog. Skizze. Salzbg., Dieter in Comm., 1825. 31 p. O. 1 fr. 25.

LE FORT, Prof. C. Catalogue des thèses soutenues devant la Faculté de Droit de Genève, 1821-77. Genève, Georg, 1878. 32 p. O. 1 fr.

MANLEY, J. J. The literature of fishing. (Pages 32-70 of his Notes on fish. London, 1877. D.)

"Perhaps the most valuable of his 'Notes' is that upon this literature, from which we gather that the collecting of the books upon this subject would be a pursuit at least as intellectual as the accumulation of blue china plates for the purpose of converting a boudoir into the semblance of a kitchen."—*Exam.*, Sept. 7.

MOTTA, Emilio. Bibliografia storica ticinese; materiale raccolto. Zürich, Herzog, 1878. 8 + 152 p. 8°. 3.20 m.

MULLER, F. Voorslag tot eene Nederlandsche bibliographie, door verschillende letterkundigen en F. Muller. Junij 1878. 8 + 16 p. 8°.

Two specimens are here given, one by D. Bierens de Haan, the other by P. A. Thiele. "The name of Fr. Muller, whose bibliographical knowledge I have often had occasion to remark, vouches for the value of the new work."—*Petukholdt*.

Fred. Muller, says the *Nieuwsblad v. d. boekhandel* (July 16, 1878 col.), has published a circular entitled "Voorslag tot eene Nederlandsche bibliographie," in which he states his intention of preparing a bibliography for the Netherlands after the method of Brunet's Manual and in the spirit of Lowndes' Manual. "For more than forty years it has been my wish to prepare such a book; with an eye to that have I worked, collected, lived." He proposes to publish special bibliographies of various branches of knowledge arranged alphabetically, but each furnished with a systematic index. Afterward, when these have been subjected to the test of actual use, they can all be reissued, in a corrected and enlarged form, as the complete Bibliography of the Netherlands.

Heer Muller has secured the co-operation of Tiele for Geography, Prof. Bierens de Haan for the Natural sciences, and Prof. Israëls for Medicine, and perhaps Natural history, and other assistance is expected. The work is to embrace, a. The important, rare, or curious books in Dutch published in the Netherlands, its colonies, or abroad. b. All published in the Southern Netherlands until the treaty of Utrecht in 1799, and also from 1815 to 1830, when they made a part of the Kingdom of the United Netherlands. c. All important books printed in the Netherlands in foreign languages, but relating to Dutch affairs or persons.

It is supposed that 100 pp. of the size of Brunet's Manual can be published for 2 or 2½ florins. The character of the projector and of his assistants is sufficient guarantee of the excellence of the work; and the Low Countries, whose industrious inhabitants have always been able to point to a reasonably good account of their literature in the volumes of Abkoude, Jong, and Brinkman, now bid fair to have a thoroughly satisfactory inventory.

PHILOMNESTE Junior. Les livres cartonnés, essais bibliographiques. Brux., Gay et Doucé, 1878. 101 p. 8°.

"There are a thousand piquant notes in this book, which mentions works of the most varied character."—*Polybiblion*.

PONS, A. J. Les éditions illustrées de Racine. Paris, Quintin, 1878. 91 p. 8°. 2 port. 10 fr. (Only 300 copies.)

ROBERT, Ulysse. Bibliographie des sociétés savantes de la France. 1e ptie: Départements. Paris, imp. nat., 1878. 83 p. 8°.

"All our societies are there, alphabetically arranged [by places], with the year of foundation, and the date and number of volumes of their publications."—T. de L.

"The work was intrusted to M. Robert by the Comité des Travaux Historiques, with the task of arranging the documents sent by the societies to the Minister of Public Instruction."

Bibliography of archery; [by] F. W. F.—*Notes and q.*, v. 9, p. 324, 383, 442, v. 10, p. 63, 102. 14½ col.

Congrès Bibliographique International.—Annales de philos. chrét., July.

The historical collection of mss. in the Paris exhibition; [by] J. W. Bradley.—*Academy*, Sept. 21. 2 col.

Literatur d. deutschen Straf- u. Justizgesetzgebung (Fortsetz. u. Schluss).—*Neuer Anz.*, Aug. 6 p.

La littérature française en Espagne, 1874-78 [traductions].—*Polybiblion*, Sept. 6½ p.

Livres à clef; par le bibliophile Job.—*Miscel. bibliog.*, no. 6.

Petit suppl. à la Bibliographie moliéresque de La-croix; [par] J. Bauquier.—*Polybiblion*, Sept. 3½ p.

The Plantin Museum at Antwerp; by W. Blades.—*Macmillan's mag.*, Aug.

In regard to the notice of the Clarke and the Thomson catalogs in the last no., Mr. Robert Clarke writes: "By comparing our 'General catalogue of choice books for

the library,' issued six months before Mr. Thomson's appeared, with his, you will see that his is merely an abridgment of ours. He not only copied our style, type, and general details, but bodily stole the bulk of the catalogue, leaving out some titles and subjects to reduce the size, and occasionally adding a title not in ours, slightly altering the arrangement. In our first edition there were a number of very stupid blunders in the spelling of names, in initials, no. of vols., prices, etc., every one of which appears in his catalogue. . . . Our catalogues are not bibliographical of course. They are only intended as helps to our customers in selecting books for purchase. They have been so extensively noticed, however, that we have a large demand for them. We had requests for our Americana catalogue from England, France, Germany, Austria, and even Russia, and had an order for 120 copies of our Medical catalogue from Sampson Low & Co. of London. We have built up one of the largest businesses in the West largely by means of our catalogues. Though they are costly, yet we think they pay us well."

It is proposed to issue a bibliography of books printed in the Netherlands in the 15th and 16th centuries, and of the chief works from 1600 to the present. It will include all works by natives, or relating to the Netherlands, published abroad, and works issued by printers in foreign countries who came from the Netherlands. To be issued in leaflets, each containing the full bibliographical description of one work, with contents, enumeration of the different editions, and list of libraries where they may be found, also a fac-simile of the printer's mark or emblem when there is any. Cost, 2 fr. a part of 50 leaflets. Editor, Ferd. van der Haeghen, Keeper of the University Library, Ghent. Subscriptions are invited.

Mr. J. W. M. Lee, of the Mercantile Library and Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, has for several years been collecting material for a bibliography of Maryland. It includes the full titles of works by native and resident authors, publications of societies, maps, State documents, works relating to the State, etc. He has it now in such a shape that it can be used, and he desires that it should be. As, however, it is not yet complete, especially before the year 1800, he will be very glad to have memoranda of the location of any works previous to that date.

The Berlin Historical Society intends issuing yearly a systematically-arranged review—not only bibliographical, but critical and exhaustive—of the whole historical literature of Europe. The publication has been undertaken by Mittler & Son in Berlin. The editors are Dr. Abraham, for Ancient history; Dr. E. Meyer, for the Middle Ages; Dr. Hermann, of Berlin, for recent times. The first volume will treat of the literature of 1878. The interest of many eminent scholars, not only in Germany but elsewhere, has been enlisted in the work.

"Mr. R. H. Shepherd is printing for private circulation a brochure of some fifty pages, entitled 'The bibliography of Ruskin; a bibliographical list, arranged in chronological order, of the published writings in prose and verse of John Ruskin, M.A., from 1835 to the present time, which will probably prove useful to collectors. Copies may be had on application to the editor, 5 Hereford Sq., S. W.'—*Acad.*, Sept. 21.

In the current number of *Anglia* (Leipzig) Dr. Trautmann gives a new and valuable feature in a classified bibliographical list of works on English language and literature published in England, America, and on the Continent, during 1876, which he intends to continue for succeeding years.

D. Indexes.

NUOVA antologia di scienze, lettere, ed arti; indice, 1866-78. Firenze, Roma, 1878. 24 + [1] p. O.

This is not properly an index, but tables of contents of the different numbers, useful as an advertisement for the journal no doubt, but of very little use to its readers.

Table gén. par ordre alphabét. des matières cont. dans les 20 premiers vol. de la REVUE du monde catholique. Paris, Palmé; Lyon, Pélagaud, 1878. 12 + 602 p. O. 10 fr.

Mr. H. B. Wheatley has been for some time engaged upon an exhaustive index for the Rev. Mynors Bright's new transcript of Pepy's Diary. Messrs. Bickers and Son will issue it with the sixth and concluding volume.

PSEUDONYMS AND ANONYMS.

EDITED BY JAMES L. WHITNEY.

This department of the JOURNAL will contain the latest discoveries in regard to the authors of anonymous and pseudonymous books. Contributions are invited from all interested in making this list as complete and valuable as possible.

PSEUDONYMS.

Roland Gilderoy.—"The pictures of the year. Notes on the Academy, the Grosvenor, the other exhibitions, and on some pictures not publicly shown" (Manchester, 1878). Charles Rowley, jr., a member of the City Council, Manchester, Eng.—*W. E. A. A.*

Wyckliffe Lane.—Mrs. Edmund Jennings is the author of "My good for nothing brother" (new edition, London, 1862).

Tirso de Molina.—There is some doubt in regard to the date of the first edition of the "Cigarras de Toledo," of Gabriel Tellez, the Spanish dramatist, who is better known by his pseudonym, Tirso de Molina. There is a very rare copy in the Boston Public Library, with the imprint Madrid, 1624. This is called the first edition by Mesonero Romanos, by Barrera y Leirado, and by Hartzenbusch. The last, who is the editor of the dramatic works of Tirso de Molina in the "Biblioteca de autores españoles" (vol. 5, 1848), states that the earliest edition that he could find in the National Library at Madrid bears the date 1631, the Aprobacion of which, dated September 3d, 1630, says that the work was printed six years before. Salvá y Mallén, in his Catalogue, mentions a copy purchased at Heber's sale, which, he thinks, may have been published in 1621. The reasons for this conjecture are that the dedication and two Aprobacions of the edition of 1624 bear the

date 1621, and the collation of the Heber copy differs from that of the edition of 1624. As this copy lacks the title-page and preliminary folios, its date cannot be given, and there appears to be no proof of an edition of 1621, except possibly that derived from a statement by Duran in his "Talia española." It is probable that this question can be settled from the editions of Tirso de Molina in European libraries.

H. E. P.—Harriet Eleanor Phillimore is the author of "Violet Stuart, a tale of the Gibraltar," and "The Heir of Cholmeley's Dene" (London, 1878).

Pikestaff.—Plain papers by Pikestaff (v. 1, London, 1866). The author is Thomas Baker, barrister at law.—*W: E. A. A.*

ANONYMOUS WORKS.

Biting the thread. By the author of "The Commissionaire," 1878, is by Fred. Webster, of Nottingham.—*J. P. B.*

Clouds and sunshine.—Fancies of a whimsical man.—Fun and earnest.—Ghostly colloquies.—Glimpses of Nineveh.—Letters from Rome.—Musings of an invalid.—Spiritual visitors.

The above were published anonymously in New York from 1852 to 1857. Their author, whose name is probably not to be found in any catalogue, is F. (Frederic?) Townsend.—*E. C. A.*

Miriam's heritage, a tale of the Delaware. By Alma Calder (N. Y., 1878).—The author is Mrs. Alma Johnston, whose maiden name is given on the title-page.

It will be remembered that the claim has been made in behalf of this writer that she is the author of the Saxe Holm Stories and "Mercy Philbrick's Choice." See JOURNAL (v. 1, p. 336).

Morag; a tale of Highland life (London, 1872).—Miss Gibb.—*A. D. W.*

My trip to Paris; how to get there and how to live there. By a Special Correspondent (Manchester).—Alfred Arthur Reade.—*W: E. A. A.*

Seela (Boston, 1878).—The author is said to be Eliza Ann Smith, wife of John Gregory Smith, formerly Governor of Vermont.

The She-Dragon of Irwell. Opera Comique (Manchester, 1875).—M. N. Woodard, Solicitor.—*W: E. A. A.*

NOTE.

There is an article in *Harper's Weekly*, October 12, on "Assumed names in literature."

NOTES AND QUERIES.

To save space, the question which almost invariably gives rise to the note is omitted. Readers are requested to send in answers or corrections of unsatisfactory answers given to any queries. Suggestions based on actual experience will be specially welcome. Note the worthlessness as carefully as the valuable, and thus avoid waste of time and money in trying what will be surely and speedily abandoned.

ABBREVIATIONS.—Many cataloguers, in arguing their very sparing use of abbreviations on the ground that only the fullest are understood by the mass of readers, seem to forget that this mass cares nothing for the information which is so conveyed. I have given this subject some special attention, and am convinced that much may be saved in preparation, and more in use, by introducing more abbreviations. People who want the extra information understand or will learn at the first using what the abbreviations mean. People who do not understand, or who fail to learn them after using the catalog, are almost invariably people who have little or no interest beyond the mere book title. E.g., in the admirable plan of giving initials of Christian names with a colon instead of a period, thus indicating the full name exactly, those who do not learn at once that *J:* means *John* in all places, don't care a straw whether the man's name is John, or James, or Julius, as long as they get the book they seek. This colon, introduced in the JOURNAL by Mr. Cutter, has gained in favor rapidly, and bids fair to be commonly adopted outside of library work. M. D.

LECTURES.—Probably you will not meet expenses in a lecture course. Many libraries and societies that have kept up such courses for many years have recently given them up. Very few pay. Some are maintained at a loss, as an educating element, but to secure funds for the library we cannot recommend them. Every conceivable honorable device is used for this purpose, and properly—fairs, suppers, concerts, excursions, etc., any of which would give more promise of financial success than a course of lectures. This does not at all apply to lectures of special interest or to those where no expense is incurred.

ORDER OF NAMES.—I note on p. 35 of the Ware Catalogue—HAYDN, Joseph, ed. by VINCENT, Benj. Dictionary of Dates. Is this right?—No; the best usage is the other way. The *Joseph* is transposed to the right of *Haydn*, simply to make it easier for the eye to find it in running down the column. Mr. Steiger and some other cataloguers prefer to keep the

regular order, and print *Joseph Haydn*, under *H* of course. As the second name is not sought by the eye in running down the column, it should not be transposed. The transposition of the first name has the effect both in speaking and writing of inclining one to treat the given name as an afterthought, added to the surname by way of parenthesis, *e.g.*, ed. by Vincent (Benj. I mean), etc. M. D.

SEX IN REGISTRATION.—Mr. Schwartz keeps separate books for registry, and assigns only odd numbers to the males, and even to the females. The number therefore, without the slightest added labor, shows the sex of the borrower (often a convenience), and the last number assigned in each book shows the number of each sex registered; a single addition gives the total. As it costs nothing and loses no advantages, it seems a capital idea.

SIZES OF SMALL BLANKS.—What form and size will prove most convenient for recommendations, special permits, and the similar blanks? I notice that the Boston Public and Amherst Libraries use for nearly all these blanks a square of about 10 cm. or 4 inches. A.

I cannot speak for Boston, but at Amherst the theory in adopting the square was that it might sometimes be of service to file the same blank on different edges to indicate certain distinction. Then the square form is necessary to fit the drawers or boxes. In fact, we very seldom did this, and I doubt its being of much practical value. If the principle is to be applied, the size mentioned could hardly be improved. A square seems awkward to most people to handle, and there are many minor considerations in favor of adopting the P(ostal) size. The supply committee are making all their new small blanks on this size, and adapting boxes, trays, cases, etc., 40 it. M. D.

WARS AND CAMPAIGNS.—To Mr. Schwartz's problem in cataloging (p. 261), Dora C. Miller, librarian of the Easthampton (Mass.) Public Library, suggests her practice, which certainly solves the problem as to cataloging. She puts the entry under both countries, *e.g.*, "Russian wars with Turkey," she enters under *Russia*, and also under *Turkey*, *Russian wars with*. The problem still remains as to placing the books on the shelves, and there a decision must be made, for books are not as accommodating as titles, and can be put in only one place. For the books or main entries in the catalog, Mr. Schwartz's plan, of putting with the country invaded, seems the best.

GENERAL NOTES.

UNITED STATES.

PATENT-OFFICE.—Quite a radical change has been made in the management of the Patent-Office Library, under Prof. Weston Flint, the new librarian. During the past two years a complete reorganization has been made and a complete catalogue compiled, the first one ever issued, although the present library has been in existence since 1836. A small pamphlet was printed in 1847, when there were but a thousand volumes. The list now amounts to 24,000, not including pamphlets and duplicate specifications of patents of the various countries, and although not large, is considered one of the best technological collections in this country. In addition to completing the catalogue, the librarian has arranged a new system of duplicate foreign patents for the various examiners' rooms, thereby saving a vast amount of time in the tedious labor of examinations of claims, and also so arranged that the foreign patents are on file in the library in a few weeks after their publication. A complete subject-matter index of the French patents in English is nearly completed, and an English index to *Dingler's Polytechnisches Journal* will be done by the end of the year.

CINCINNATI MERCANTILE LIBRARY.—Mr. John M. Newton has been appointed librarian, the position worthily filled for many years by Mr. M. Hazen White, recently deceased. Mr. Newton has the culture, literary tastes, temperament, and methodical habits of business which, with library experience, qualify a person to be a model librarian. If the appointment of a librarian without library experience is ever justifiable it is in this case. Mr. Newton has travelled in many countries and climes, has a wide range of information, and is an experienced writer on historical and other subjects. He deserves, and will receive, a cordial welcome into the fraternity of American librarians, and will be an active worker in the Library Association. W. F. P.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.—Professor Winsor announces that he is desirous of forming a collection of all the works, separate or collected, of American and British poets, published in the lifetime of their authors. Such editions are of first importance in the critical study of the text for special scholars and successive editors, while the later annotated editions naturally supersede them with the gen-

eral reader. In the libraries of friends of the College there are doubtless many such laid aside to give place to later editions, and it is hoped such earlier issues may find their way to the shelves.

YALE COLLEGE LIBRARY has received a gift of 1300 volumes in Chinese from alumnus Yung Wing, the new Chinese Minister.

HON. GEORGE BANCROFT has given a thousand dollars to the town library at Lancaster, Mass., the income to be devoted to the purchase of books of history.

THE late Evert A. Duyckinck bequeathed his valuable library, containing between eight and nine thousand volumes, to the Lenox Library, as a memorial of himself and his brother, the late George Long Duyckinck.

MUCH to the regret of those who have known his faithful and successful work, done without compensation, Mr. F. Jackson has resigned the superintendency of the Newton (Mass.) Free Library. The resignation takes effect Jan. 1st.

LIBRARIANS will be sorry to miss from their ranks Miss Annie R. Godfrey, of the Harvard University Library, but glad to welcome in her place Mrs. Melvil Dewey. The quiet wedding occurred October 19th, only a few friends being present.

R. R. B.

THE widow of the late Bloomfield H. Moore, of Philadelphia, has tendered to the Franklin Institute \$10,000 to be placed in trust, to be called the "Bloomfield H. Moore Memorial Fund." The income will be applied to the purchase of books for the library.

PLEASE find below data for edition mentioned on page 273 of Library Journal:

Rogers, Celia Huntington (Devonia, Alsatia), birth of, by Grace C. Rogers; Burl., 1878. F. L. R.

NOTE.—Only one copy; absolutely perfect. L. R. indicates librarian's rooms. R.

GREAT BRITAIN.

LEEDS PUBLIC LIBRARY.—The *Bookseller* (London) says: "While the Public Libraries Act is almost a dead letter in the metropolis, it lives and prospers in the provinces. Every report tells its tale of successes achieved, improvements suggested and adopted, and increased literary activity among the great masses of the people. In this report, for instance, we find that both in the reference and lending libraries there has been a vast increase in the

number of readers, that the classes of books inquired for and perused are of a higher character than before, and that the spirit of inquiry alike animates young and old. New branches have been established in no fewer than eight townships or suburbs, and six other branches are in process of formation. In truth, Leeds, in the way of reading and research, may be considered quite a model town; something of its success in that respect being doubtless due to the energy of the Library Committee and the librarian.

MANCHESTER.—The experiment of opening the public libraries and reading-rooms in Manchester appears to have been successful. An average of 500 visitors for each library is reported, and many of them are not the usual week-day frequenters. It is satisfactory to find that this addition to the privileges of the public has not been made at the cost of the attendants, whose hours of service are not increased by the new arrangement. Mr. Alderman Baker, chairman of the Library Committee, considers that the result so far attained is most gratifying.—*Athenaeum*.

NOTTINGHAM.—The contractor of the University College (which will comprise the Free Public Library, of which Mr. Briscoe is librarian), expects to complete the building within a year, or twelve months before the prescribed time.

DONCASTER.—Mr. Darby, of the Leeds Public Libraries, has been appointed librarian of the Free Public Library. There were seventy-five candidates.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON.—The erection of the library and picture gallery in connection with the Shakspeare Memorial Buildings has commenced.

WHALLEY.—A new library and lecture hall, built at the Lancashire Independent College, was opened on Wednesday, 25th September.

IPSWICH.—Sir Richard Wallace, Bart., has contributed £500 towards a free public library, school of art, and museum.

It is rumored that Mr. Winter Jones will be made a baronet.

WE are desired to state that the circular of the U. K. A. on parochial libraries (p. 227) was sent to archdeacons only, hence the use of the address "Reverend Sir," which might otherwise be inexplicable. In this connection we may state also that Dr. Acland's name was misprinted Adams, on p. 226.

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